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Yeltsin Signs Decree on Relations With Taiwan

Russian President Yeltsin yesterday signed a decree "on relations between the Russian Federation and Taiwan to specify juridical and diplomatic parameters of relations between Moscow and Taipei," according to ITAR-TASS. Presidential Spokesman Kostikov commented that "Russia proceeds from the assumption that only one China exists and Taiwan is its inseparable part, accordingly Russia maintains no official inter-state relations with Taiwan."

Foreign Ministry Hopes for 'Improved' Convention on Biological Weapons

Grigoriy Berdennikov, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, stated at a briefing in Moscow on 14 September that Russia, the United States, and Great Britain "have confirmed their adherence to the strict fulfilment of a convention on biological weapons and adopted a joint statement on biological weapons," reports ITAR-TASS. The announcement followed meetings between delegations from these countries in Moscow on 10 and 11 September. Major General Valentin Yevstigneev, a representative of the Russian Defense Ministry, said at the same briefing that an agreement was reached "in principle" on "such measures and mechanisms for control of biological facilities, including military ones, which exclude the possibility of developing offensive programs in the future." He added his hope that "a more precise agreement would be reached on the basis of the cooperation between Russia, Great Britain and the United States on the banned and allowed activities of biological facilities, and that the previously adopted convention would be improved."

CIS Parliamentarians in Bishkek Choose Chairman, Assembly Site

CIS representatives at the Interparliamentary Assembly elected Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov as chairman of the assembly council, a position he will hold for one year, according to ITAR-TASS. St. Petersburg was confirmed as the site of the council. The parliamentarians also adopted a number of documents, including "a statute of the inter-parliamentary assembly, a statement on cooperation in the sphere of social protection of citizens and a decision on rapprochement of national legislations of the Commonwealth countries." An agreement was reached on the creation within a month of an assembly commission on legal, economic, humanitarian, ecological, and defense cooperation.

"The main reason" that Ukraine was not participating in the assembly's work was that the republic "did not sign earlier the treaty on such a structure, regarding it as purposeless," reports Kiev radio. According to the "official view of the leadership of the Ukrainian parliament, this can only lead to creating suprastate bodies," which "is contrary to the principle of Ukrainian sovereignty."

Officials Announce Accord on Biological Weapons

LD1409132992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1250 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—"Great Britain, the United States, the Russian Federation have confirmed their adherence to the strict fulfilment of a convention on biological weapons and adopted a joint statement on biological weapons as a result of meetings between heads of the delegations of these countries which were held in Moscow," Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Grigoriy Berdennikov said at a briefing here on Monday [14 September].

"For the first time an agreement was reached at a high level on mechanisms for control the implementation of a convention on biological weapons, which will function on a tripartite basis," Major-General Valentin Yevstigneev, a representative of the Russian Defence Ministry, said at the briefing.

He emphasised that an agreement was reached in principle on such measures and mechanisms for control of biological facilities, including military ones, which exclude the possibility of developing offensive programmes in the future.

He voiced hope that a more precise agreement would be reached on the basis of the cooperation between Russia, Great Britain and the United States on the banned and allowed activities of biological facilities, and that the previously adopted convention would be improved.

Promise to Curtail Military Biological Programs

MK1509083992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Frolov under the "Security" rubric: "Russia Promises To Discontinue Production of Bacteriological Weapons. Military Maintains That Americans Confused Them With Veterinary Scientists."]

[Text] Officials representing the Governments of the Russian Federation, Great Britain, and the United States, who met at the end of last week in Moscow to examine a number of mutual concerns in connection with the observance of the 1972 Convention on Biological and Toxic Weapons, confirmed on behalf of their governments the aspiration to comply with the convention in full.

The statement by the Russian delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov, looked particularly impressive, inasmuch as it was Russia's position on this issue that—not without justification—has long been a source of concern to the West. According to the current official version, our developments in the field of biological weaponry began in 1946 and continued for 20 years, even after the signing of the convention. We are talking here about so-called offensive research, which was ended by a decree of the Russian president dated 11 April 1992 that deemed the research to be illegal. In implementation of the decree, a number of steps have been taken. The British and Americans have been informed about these steps by the Russian representatives.

In the Ministry of Defense the directorate responsible for the offensive biological program has been eliminated, while the dismantling of the experimental production lines for "biological compounds" and the closure of the biological weapons testing facility have been announced. Even the very wording looks sensational—literally one month ago the military specialists, as well as the diplomats, were unable to utter anything of the sort, categorically denying everything and speaking only about the testing of protective gear [sredstva zashchity]. However, no one was going to hide the fact that the line between the latter and tests of weaponry is a fine one that can easily be crossed.

Now a 50-percent reduction in personnel engaged in military biological programs has been anounced, along with a 30-percent cut in funding. For understandable reasons no absolute figures were cited. However, General Valentin Yevstigneyev, deputy chief of the Radiation, Biological, and Chemical Protection Directorate, explained to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent that these percentages were obtained as a result of the closure of a facility on Vozrozhdeniye Island in the Aral Sea (Kazakhstan) and four departments in the Russian Armed Forces' Central Institute of Microbiology directly linked to it. If you consider the fact that the site was located on the territory of a sovereign state, and its viability required the expenditure of much effort and resources, then it can be supposed that the decision on its closure has removed a number of the military's problems, including those related to increased public attention.

Now the center of attention has shifted to the Institute of Especially Pure Biological Preparations in St. Petersburg. A rumor has been circulating concerning work there on strains of plague bacteria. The military, however, maintains that it has been five years since it placed any orders with St. Petersburg, and it explains that incident as a defect in the work of the relevant structures of the interested states, which have confused the plague with the so-called "hen cholera," a vaccine that has been worked on in St. Petersburg together with the Veterinary Institute. Nevertheless, American and British experts have been invited to take part in an investigation. To judge by all appearances, this will be the first measure in an extensive program on the exchange of observers, independent experts, and scientists with a view to "eliminating ambiguities." Specialists, however, consider the main verification [kontrol] problem to be the absence of a mechanism and specific criteria in the existing convention, which renders many reciprocal claims unsubstantiated. There is yet another problem that will have to be resolved in the long term: international cooperation in creating a system of protection against biological weapons, which have been called "the poor states' atomic bomb." It is known that Iraq has exerted considerable efforts to create biological weapons, and it is most probable that it is not alone in this respect.

Vying Interests Could Spark Transcaucasian War

MK1509101892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Armen Khanbabyan under the "Forecast" rubric: "New Line of Tension? Clash of Interests Between Central Asia and Transcaucasus May Become Cause of Major War"]

[Text] You get the impression that a new and highly dangerous seat of tension is flaring up on the southern borders of the former Soviet Transcaucasus. Relations between Turkey and Iran are likely to deteriorate sharply in the near future, mostly likely caused by the well-known events in Tajikistan. The situation in Dushanbe is generating open concern among the Turkic-speaking Central Asian states, where President Nabiyev's downfall is clearly being assessed as a victory for fundamentalist pro-Iranian forces. Meanwhile, leaders of other countries in the region are gearing themselves for the Turkish, that is, essentially Western, model of development. It was no coincidence that Uzbek leader Islam Karimov made a transparent allusion to a desire for military intervention on Russia's part with the aim of pacifying Tajikistan. It is doubtful, however, whether the Kremlin, which is presently worried about the problems of the North Caucasus and the imminent difficult winter, will agree to interfere in the Tajik events, where it might run the risk of involving itself in a military campaign similar to the Afghan one. If Russia maintains neutrality, however, the warring groups in Tajikistan will inevitably from support in Ankara and Tehran, which will exacerbate the crisis between these two Muslim states. However, by dint of purely geographical reasons the main confrontation will be unleashed in Transcaucasia instead of Central Asia.

The radical Iranian press has recently been talking openly of the possibility of war. Predictions like these are by no means groundless. Iranian Azerbaijan, inhabited by Turkic people, and indeed the Megrinskiy isthmus, which belongs to Armenia, are serious obstacles to Turkish interests in the East. The absence of normal relations with Iran and Armenia is making it impossible to build a trans-Asian railroad line from Ashgabat to Ankara or to lay a major oil pipeline that would carry Central Asian petroleum to West Europe. This in particular explains the presence of the well-known "Paul Gobel plan," which envisages the seizure of the Megrinskiy isthmus from Armenia, and the clearly pro-Azerbaijani statements made by Margaret Thatcher, currently a British Petroleum consultant, about the possibility of resolving the Karabakh conflict.

The prevailing geographic situation is significantly reducing Ankara's chances in the fight for influence in Azerbaijan and Central Asia and, at the same time, is giving Tehran a tangible advantage. Therefore, as far as can be judged, Turkey is increasingly moving toward the opinion that political and military pressure must be strengthened. While giving assurances about its desire to develop good-neighborly relations with Yerevan and about its neutrality in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Ankara is increasingly pursuing an open anti-Armenian policy. For example, without prior warning Turkey recently decided to conduct a military inspection on Armenian territory (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA No. 173), as a result of which a Turkish Armed Forces airplane violated the republic's airspace and created a force majeur in the area surrounding the Yerevan airport. Furthermore, the Turkish Government has not reacted at all to a request by the Armenian prime minister for a short-term grain loan. According to reports from reliable sources, the military council of the Turkish Armed Forces 9th Corps has decided to meet the Nakhichevan Republic's request for assistance with weapons and ammunition, which clearly can only intensify the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Armenia is now convinced that Ankara has adopted the policy of creating territorial corridors through these countries, a goal that is impossible without changing the existing borders and which is consequently fraught with the possibility of major upheavals, since in that case Russia's interests would be affected. However, despite the complexity of the situation, it is possible to avoid a war in the region that would quickly grow into a world conflict. For example, Armenia could make its territory available for the construction of a pipeline and for freight transit, which incidentally would be very advantageous for Armenia itself. The rivalry between Russia, Iran, and Turkey in the Transcaucasus and Central Asia could take on the characteristics of longer-term competition to promote the prosperity rather than the devastation of these regions. But for that to happen, the existing military confrontation must be switched to the framework of diplomatic discussions.

Japan Plans Aid Package for CIS Countries

LD1409085992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0737 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo September 14 TASS—The Japanese Foreign Ministry is going to render free humanitarian assistance worth 100 million dollars to Russia and 11 other former Union republics, with the exception of three Baltic states, YOMIURI reported today. However, some members of the government and of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are wary of rendering this assistance because of the postponement of President Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo and his critical remarks on Japan's aid to Russia. Some officials believe this could make the volume of the assistance smaller than planned before.

It has been announced that the Japanese Foreign Ministry is going to hold consultations soon with the Finance Ministry, so that 100 million dollars will be included in the additional state budget for the current year. An official statement is expected to be made at the international conference on problems of rendering assistance to the so-called "New Independent States" (this is the way 12 above mentioned former Soviet republics are called in the West). The conference is due to take place in Tokyo late in October.

Sources at the Japanese Foreign Ministry confirmed to ITAR-TASS today that the Government of Japan, the host country of the forthcoming conference, is analysing measures to be taken in this connection. The sources said, however, that they could not give the information about the volume of the assistance so far.

Parliamentarians Continue Meeting in Bishkek

Akayev Calls for Integration

OW1509142092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan announced during the opening of the CIS's inter-parliamentary assembly that political, economic and social stability in the CIS states is unthinkable without "integration which can prevent economic and social crises".

Akayev said that the parliaments should ensure the social protection of the citizens of the CIS, guarantee the human rights, draw the national laws closer together and broaden cooperation in the clean-up operations following natural disasters.

He said that the mentality of the people living in the CIS has changed a great deal and that now people are prepared for radical economic reforms. The new laws adopted by the CIS parliaments have played a major role in this, he noted.

The fact that the assembly is attended by Chairman of the Tajik parliament Akbarsho Iskandarov is vitally important, said Akayev and added that the forum may promote the settlement of the situation in Tajikistan.

Assembly Elects Khasbulatov

LD1509133792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Bishkek, 15 Sep—At the plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly, which is taking place in Bishkek, the chairman of the council of that consultative body was elected today. Speaker of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov was elected. He will be chairman of the council for one year.

St. Petersburg has been confirmed as the site of the council of the Interparliamentary Assembly.

Adopts Documents

LD1509164392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Bishkek September 15 TASS—The first day of the plenary session of the inter-parliamentary assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States was successful, according to Sergey Filatov, first deputy head of the Russian parliament.

A number of documents was adopted practically without any amendments, Filatov told ITAR-TASS. They include a statute of the inter-parliamentary assembly, a statement on cooperation in the sphere of social protection of citizens and a decision on rapprochement of national legislations of the Commonwealth countries. An agreement was reached on the creation within a month of a commission of the inter-parliamentary assembly on legal, economic, humanitarian, ecological and defense cooperation.

Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov, was elected chairman of the inter-parliamentary assembly council with one-year term of office.

Radio Explains Ukraine's Nonparticipation

LD1509175992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1517 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine is not taking part in work of the inter-parliamentary assembly of the CIS states, which started today in Bishkek. The main reason is that our republic did not sign earlier the treaty on such a structure, regarding it as purposeless. In the official view of the leadership of the Ukrainian parliament, this can only lead to creating suprastate bodies, and this is contrary to the principle of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Baltic States To Coordinate Economic Policies

LD1209223792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] At the meeting of the heads of government held in Tallinn today Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia confirmed their intentions to coordinate the economic policies of the three states. The ministers of finance signed an agreement on the settlement of accounts in hard currency for non-trade operations. Representatives of the Lithuanian and Latvian banks signed an agreement on reciprocal accounts. Accounts between Lithuania and Estonia will be made in hard currency as long as Lithuania has not introduced its national currency, the litas.

The prime ministers of the three Baltic states did not sign protocols on cooperation in the sphere of visas and customs duties. It was agreed however to adhere to the protocols worked out by Estonia without signing them. The protocols stipulate that the Baltic states will unify their border regimes with respect to other countries, will stick to the same level of visa taxes, and will exchange various kind of information.

At a press conference given after the meeting the Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis said that Latvia agreed to allow the use of the Latvian seaport of Ventspils to export oil to the Lithuanian oil refinery in the town Mazeikiai. The Lithuanian Greens have been long suggesting the use of Ventspils instead of building an oil terminal in Lithuania.

Discuss Mutual Payments, Troop Pullout

LD1209041892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2036 GMT 11 Sep 92

[BY ETA-TASS]

[Text] Tallinn September 11 TASS—Estonia is using deutsche marks in mutual payments with Latvia and Lithuania, the Baltic prime ministers told a news conference here today.

Alongside mutual payments, a meeting of the ministers focused on the introduction of the single visa and customs regime for which permanent commissions will be set up.

They said they discussed the withdrawal of Russian troops only at dinner. Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala said, signing on Tuesday the corresponding agreement with Russia, Lithuania observed not only its own interests but also the interests of all Baltic States.

Baltic States To Join IMF Bureau on 1 Nov

OW1209141692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1355 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Scandinavian Bureau of the International Monetary Fund held a session in Tallinn yesterday. As chief of the bureau, IMF executive director Ingimundur Fridriksson, told our correspondent, the meeting dealt with some technical aspects of the admission of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the IMF. According to Fridriksson, the Baltic states will joint the Scandinavian Bureau on November 1.

The executive director believes Estonia's economic program will be approved by the IMF top figures at their September 16 meeting and will be supported by financiers throughout the world.

Caucasian Republics Discuss Trans-Asian Highway

LD1209165692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Olga Petrushel for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata September 11 TASS—Questions regarding the construction of a unified Trans-Asian motor highway, linking Kazakhstan and republics of Central Asia with Iran, Turkey and Pakistan and ensuring an outlet to countries of the Middle East and Far East through Karachi sea port, were discussed today in Alma-Ata.

The protocol signed to this effect envisages the creation of a working group which will conduct the route research, establish technical and economic basis, guaranteeing safety of the motor highway and prepare normative documents, taking into consideration regional conditions. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have been invited to take part in the motor highway's construction.

Among those who took part in the discussions were Kazakhstan's Minister for Transport Construction Shamil Bekbulatov, Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Transport Erkinbek Kurmanbayev, and Chairman the state concern "Turkmenavtoellary" Nuriy Kulmuradov.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Sep

LD1609061892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0441 GMT 16 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 16 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers highlight today the beginning in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, of an interparliamentary assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the trip around the country of acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar.

"After all the divisions and splits heads of the legislative authorities have realised at last that it is necessary to cooperate more closely, to restore and develop economic, political and cultural relations," PRAVDA writes. "The creation and the beginning of work of the interparliamentary assembly is the first step on the way to rapprochement."

"Selfish politicians and hysterics are the main obstacle of the way of the reform in Russia," Yegor Gaydar said in an interview with a PRAVDA correspondent in Novgorod. Warding off criticism coming from the opposition, which attacks the government, he said that "now one does not need special courage to make emphatic statements... If Yeltsin abandons me, I shall find some other work for myself."

Kazimiera Prunskiene, ex-prime minister of Lithuania, said in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that she did not intend to return to the political arena in the near future. The Lithuanian Supreme Court passed a verdict on monday, accusing Prunskiene of regular cooperation with the KGB both in early 80s, during the perestroika years and Lithuania's struggle for independence. According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, Prunskiene rejects the charges and is going to appeal soon against the court decision "with evidence in her hands."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries a report that the popular court of the Ziemel District of Riga will begin on September 16 the trial of militia Captain Sergey Parfenov, former second commander of the Riga Special Militia Force (OMON). The article is entitled "Will Trial of Sergey Parfenov Be Impartial?" After 11 months of Parfenov's preliminary custody, the Latvian prosecutor's office brought charges against him on three episodes. They were all removed from the criminal case, the investigation of which is not yet over.

The Armenian opposition is being pacified, PRAVDA believes. It points out that anti-government actions are gradually losing momentum. "Quite recently the future of the president and the government evoked serious doubts, while now people prefer not to take part in opposition rallies. The situation changed radically after the opposition bloc national alliance did not accept Levon Ter-Petrosyan's proposal to hold a referendum on the problem of confidence in the president," the newspaper writes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA sets forth the main provisions of the plan for supporting reforms in Russia, which has been put forward by a group of experts from the president's office. "Trying to take advantage of the popular discontent over the reduction of living standards and recession in production, some political forces in the country are coming up with proposals which lead to the giving up of the market-oriented reform and the restoration of the command-based economy. This is why it is necessary to take the initiative away from the opposition and suggest measures that will be part of the reform, but will envisage support for the production sector and the stabilisation of living standards," the experts believe.

The state should interfere more actively in the economic development processes, said Igor Faminskiy, director of the Institute of Foreign Economic Studies at the Russian Ministry of Economy, in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. He believes the state should pursue a more active structural policy and help key industries. With this in view it is necessary to use budget financing, tax, credit and other levers, Faminskiy said.

Spokesman: Work Continuing on Visit to Japan

OW1509181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Andrey Borodin and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry continues work on preparation of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, head of the Department for Information and Press of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing on Tuesday [15 September], pointing out that the aim of this diplomatic activity is not "a search for guilty persons but a constructive work carried out to bring a positive result", and as far as this particular case is concerned—organization of Yeltsin's tour "inconvenient for both sides terms, which would be fruitful and ‹ ffective". [as received]

Yastrzhembskiy reported that during the recent meeting of the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Andrey Kozyrev with the Japanese Ambassador to Moscow Sumio Edamura the sides reconfirmed their intentions to abstain from unfriendly rhetoric and attempts to look for guilty persons.

According to the representative of the Foreign Ministry, the second and the main task of the diplomats is "a continuation of the dialogue". Yastrzhembskiy does not rule out a possibility of Kozyrev's meeting with his Japanese colleague Michio Watanabe in the near future. "This meeting if it is due to take place will be held in New York at the next session of the UN General Assembly to be opened soon", the diplomat said.

Mentioning the statements of the Vice Premier Mikhail Poltoranin on possibility of "an interim" meeting of President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Miyazawa on the island of Okinawa before Yeltsin's visit to South Korea, Yastrzhembskiy pointed out that this is "a private point of view of the deputy head of the Russian government".

According to the Foreign Ministry's representative, Poltoranin's statements mean that "as before the Russian leadership intends to organize and conduct the meeting of the Russian and Japanese leaders and continue to look for efficient ways of its preparation".

Spokesman Denies Dates of Yeltsin's Korea Visit

LD1509193892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent K. Belov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The Russian Foreign Ministry today partially disavowed a statement by State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis that the Russian president's visit to the Republic of Korea will take place on 12-13 November this year.

[Begin Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Foreign Ministry's press and information department, recording] The final date of the visit will be known after representatives of the two countries' foreign ministries simultaneously announce the forthcoming visit. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Handling of Japan Visit Cancellation Criticized

PM1509140992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Japan Beleives Moscow Decided To Teach Tokyo a Lesson With 'Shock Therapy'"]

[Text] Tokyo—The mutually agreed-upon story regarding the cancellation of B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Japan lasted less than 24 hours. People in Moscow began to repudiate it very strenuously at various levels, swiftly switching to direct attacks on Tokyo. The Japanese side is rejecting the charges that it wrecked the visit and bears responsibility for the consequences.

As a result, instead of a "tactful and civilized" refusal of a meeting at an awkward time, a scandal has erupted in which Moscow is not only "slamming the door" but is also enthusiastically constructing barriers in front of the doorway.

It is worth recalling some of the facts and events of the last four days. On Wednesday [9 September] evening the Russian president reportedly directly called the Japanese prime minister and told him personally that he would not be going to Tokyo. It now transpires from the Japanese explanations that during the conversation the Russian side accused the Japanese side of being excessively firm in its approach toward the territorial issue and of being reluctant to separate politics from economics in contacts with Russia. The Japanese side insisted that these formulas regarding the cancellation of the visit be removed from the official version "for public consumption," which the sides duly agreed to do—not Japanese obstacles, but internal Russian difficulties that "did not allow the president to leave" were given as the reason for the failure of the visit to take place.

Russia's behavior in the present situation is prompting an extremely negative and emotional reaction in Tokyo. But the point is not the Japanese reaction, but the essence of what is happening. While the first part of this affair—the cancellation of the visit—can and should be regarded as the lesser evil given the present context of dialogue with Japan and the political background inside Russia and beyond its borders, the second part, which is unfolding before our very eyes, is clearly beyond the realm of common sense and unfortunately cannot be properly explained.

For instance, who told the president that Gorbachev "hid in basements" to "escape student pickets" during his visit to Tokyo 18 months ago? That absurd claim placed in the mouth of the top leader and trotted out live

on air in Cheboksary dumbfounded even local heavyweight journalists, who were left speechless. Then the power of speech returned, and the Japanese recalled that student pickets lay in wait for Gorbachev during his visit to Beijing. Of course, both Beijing and Tokyo are in the east, but that is probably the only similarity between them, so the Japanese Embassy in Moscow will find it hard to obey the directive from Tokyo to clarify what Yeltsin meant by "basements" and "pickets."

It is equally hard to accept the call made by the leader of the Russian Foreign Ministry to the Japanese via Ambassador Edamura to "display restraint and composure." The ambassador, so newspapers here write, told Kozyrev that when it comes to restraint, everything is fine in Japan, which is not something that can be said of Russia, which has violated the norms of etiquette and the "rules of the game." That reply is not just a routine "gibe" during a sudden disagreement, but a direct allusion to Russian diplomacy's "double standards." After all, as is well known, during the preparations for the abortive visit Kozyrev had numerous meetings with his Japanese counterpart in both Tokyo and Moscow which always culminated in written confirmation of deepened mutual understanding. The Japanese cannot view as fair the attempts to heap the entire responsibility for the failure of the visit onto the Japanese side.

It is characteristic that now, a few days after the Russian "surprise," the emphasis in the Japanese reaction is shifting—there is now anger not at the actual fact of the nonarrival of Yeltsin, whom Tokyo is prepared to receive and understand, but at what has been heaped up around it. Defects in execution are an old Russian failing, but the Japanese are not so thoroughly familiar with our specific nature as not to react to it at all. So far as can be judged, Tokyo is now veering between a wish to "get out of the situation" by embarking on an overt skirmish with Moscow, and caution, which counsels it not to do this.

Evidence of the former can be seen in the statement of Foreign Minister Watanabe, who declared in a KYODO interview that in the resultant conditions Japan is entitled to review its former position and renounce the role of host country for the international conference on emergency humanitarian aid to the fragments of the former Union, planned for October. Evidence of the latter must be today's statement by the Japanese Foreign Ministry correcting its own minister—the conference will go ahead and the host country, that is, Japan, will even present the CIS with a gift of an extra $100 million to purchase food and medicines during the harsh winter.

It is hard to say unequivocally which approach will ultimately prevail. It is hard because Moscow is willy-nilly inflaming passions and bringing the Japanese back to a topic that many influential politicians in Tokyo would have preferred not to address for a long time. IZVESTIYA has already briefly reported the first attempt to offer a long-term lease on land in the disputed territories—it was a question of a contract between the local South Kuril authorities and a Hong Kong company, which obtained a 50-year lease on almost 300 hectares of land on Shikotan for a ridiculous sum. The news caused a rumpus in Tokyo, and over the weekend, after a major research effort, the Japanese discovered that the "Carlson and Kaplan" company was intending to build some kind of den of iniquity—a complex including a cockfighting arena and a track for horse and dog races, plus several casinos. The prime minister personally promised to present a stern protest to the Russian side over this, and the press was already beginning to kick up a fuss, but then it turned out that "Carlson and Kaplan" is not a real firm but a phantom registered at an address where it does not operate and not featuring in any business directory for Hong Kong. Passions were about to subside, but all of a sudden fresh news came in from the South Kurils—this time a plan to construct a golf course on Kunashir on land leased for 70 years with Russian-Austrian participation—added to which Kozyrev promised over the course of a week to investigate "Carlson and Kaplan," which the Japanese already seemed to have done in less than two days.

But even this is not all. On Saturday morning agencies reported a meeting between the South Korean ambassador in Moscow and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze at which the Korean side, as YONHAP notes, expressed in quite harsh terms its wish to receive the Russian president not in December after his trip to China, as proposed by Moscow, but in October or November without any kind of "makeweights," as an exclusive trip. The sides agreed to return to the discussion today, but on yesterday's "Itogi" program Secretary of State Burbulis announced that the Russian president will go to Seoul 12-13 November. In theory the Koreans ought to have been pleased with this swift positive response, but the opposite proved to be the case (once again, failings in implementation)—Seoul, so KYODO reports, officially stated that Burbulis' statement came as news to Korea and the date of the visit must be agreed by both sides, rather than by just one, especially when it notifies its partner of its decision indirectly—on television on a Sunday without the proper protocol for such an occasion.

The Korean turnaround (let us hope that Burbulis' leak is confirmed via diplomatic channels) was another slap in the face for Tokyo, since it effectively transpires that the "internal difficulties" which Russia cited in turning down the Japanese summit meeting do not extend to Moscow's other partners. In other words, only after five days (counting from Wednesday) did it become finally clear that Moscow had decided to teach Tokyo a lesson in "shock therapy" for its persistence over the territorial issue and reluctance to extend a "helping hand with credit." The only question is, what are the Japanese going to get out of this lesson....

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Relations With Taiwan

LD1609072992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0712 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday [15 September] signed a decree "on relations between the Russian Federation and Taiwan" to specify juridical and diplomatic parameters of relations between Moscow and Taipei.

According to presidential spokesman Vitaliy Kostikov, "Russia proceeds from the assumption that only one China exists and Taiwan is its inseparable part, accordingly Russia maintains no official inter-state relations with Taiwan".

Relations with Taiwan are being maintained at an unofficial level by separate individuals, non-governmental organisations and private firms.

Press Secretary Comments

LD1609083192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0749 GMT 16 Sep 92

["Text" of report issued by the president's press secretary in Moscow on 16 September]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Lately reports and comments have appeared in the Russian and foreign press that cause differing interpretations of the position of the Russian leadership with regard to Taiwan.

In connection with this, the president's press service calls attention to Boris Yeltsin's decree "On Relations Between the Russian Federation and Taiwan," signed by the president on 15 September 1992.

Proceeding from the necessity and legality of developing economic, scientific and technological, cultural, and other relations between Russia and Taiwan, the president's decree at the same time specifies the juridical and diplomatic parameters of these relations.

In its policy, Russia proceeds from the premise that only one China exists and that Taiwan is an indivisible part of it. Because of this, Russia does not maintain official interstate relations with Taiwan.

Relations with Taiwan are maintained on an unofficial level: by individual citizens, non-governmental organizations, and private firms. Assistance in arranging travel documents for Russian citizens and organizations travelling to Taiwan and for residents of Taiwan travelling to Russia will be provided through the consular departments of embassies of the Russian Federation in third countries and through nongovernmental organizations in Moscow and Taipei.

The decree clarifies that the composition and functions of the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission, and also the timescale for opening its permanent missions in Moscow and Taipei, will be determined in the future in concordance with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Moscow Radio on U.S. Fighter Sales to Taiwan

OW1509121792 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 0400 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Commentary by station commentator (Malinkinov); from the "Asian Affairs" program—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] We all know that in early September, U.S. President Bush approved a decision on selling a big allotment of F-16 fighter planes to Taiwan. Here is a commentary by station commentator (Malinkinov) on the possible consequences of this move:

As expected, President Bush's decision has provoked strong repercussions in Beijing. I would like to excerpt two standpoints from Chinese official quarters' official remarks on this issue. First, they believe that the sale of F-16 fighters to Taiwan will greatly damage Sino-U.S. relations. Second, the situation in the Taiwan Strait region will inevitably be further destabilized as a result.

We could make a variety of speculations on the sales' damage to Sino-U.S. relations. According to sources in Beijing, the Chinese are now studying a series of measures ranging from halting the import of U.S. wheat to expelling the U.S. ambassador to China. On the other hand, the two countries have high-level economic ties of an interactive nature that will not change according to the wishes of either side. As such, neither of them wishes an unduly frigid relationship. It appears that the U.S. President had mainly counted on this when making his decision. I do not think Bush intends to jeopardize Sino-U.S. ties, as the normalization of these ties was a result of a great deal of time and effort put in by both sides.

At the same time, Washington must have been well aware that the supply of arms to Taiwan constitutes an interference in China's internal affairs, since both Washington and Taiwan do not deny that Taiwan is a part of China. If Beijing really has a suspicion of what has in fact already been done by Bush, a matter of fundamental principle would have come into play. [sentence as heard] The Chinese leaders have never compromised on this issue. Therefore, some Americans also are now examining the merit of this action—in other words, whether it was in the United States' interests for Bush to brazenly jeopardize one of its major foreign policies solely for the hope that such an action would win him support in the November presidential election. Furthermore, the consequences of this move will mainly affect bilateral relations between Washington and Beijing. The almost imminent worsening of the tense situation on the Taiwan Strait will inevitably have an impact on all other countries in the Asian-Pacific region.

Try recalling that sigh of great relief the people heaved when the roar of guns finally died down in the Quemoy and Matsu regions of Mainland China and Taiwan. The elderly should still remember that the conflicts between Beijing and Taiwan in 1958 had brought mankind to the brink of a nuclear war. During the long period since then, trade, economic, financial, information, humanitarian, and other kinds of ties have been established extensively across the strait, with various delegations making frequent contacts, roadblocks along the path of contact being gradually removed, and mutual trust being enhanced. The most evident example is the Taiwan Government's announcement of its intention to abolish this November military organs on the defensive island of Quemoy, which is barely separated from Fujian Province on the mainland by the sea and has been put under military rule and solid defense for the past four decades or so. After President Bush's decision, could Taiwan carry on with its plan? Would they revoke a plan revealed before September for developing a variety of ties with Mainland China?

Vice Premier Shokhin Going to U.S. for Meetings

OW1509143492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Russian government's press service, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin is going to lead a government delegation visiting Washington from 19 to 25 September. The delegation, which, among others, includes the acting chairman of the Russian Central Bank, Viktor Gerashchenko, will attend the annual meeting of the board of directors of the World Bank [WB] and the International Monetary Fund.

Shokhin is planning to meet officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as members of the U.S. administration.

Shokhin was recently approved as the WB and IMF director for Russia.

Spokesman Threatens Veto on UN FRY Vote

LD1509140492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Lenoid Timfeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Sep—Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the press and information department of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, said today at a briefing that Russia considered the proposal to isolate Yugoslavia from international organizations, including the United Nations, as "counterproductive." Answering journalists' questions, the representative of the Russian external policy department let it be understood that Russia could use its right of veto during the vote at the UN to exclude the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia from this major international organization.

This problem was discussed with Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic during his stay in Moscow on the way to China. During the meeting, underlined the Russian diplomat, it was stressed that any steps aimed at isolating Yugoslavia from the international community would only complicate the process of settling the crisis.

Noting the increased readiness of Yugoslavia to cooperate with the world community in the peaceful settlement of the conflict, the diplomat said that regret was nevertheless being expressed in Russia in connection with incidents that had recently taken place in Sarajevo. Above all, this concerned the attacks on servicemen of the UN peacekeeping forces, responsibility for which has been laid at the door of the Muslim formations by the UN forces command. Every such act, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy emphasized, must be carefully investigated and the guilty side should be fully answerable for the crime committed.

Replying to a question on the reasons for the postponement of a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Milan Panic, the Russian diplomat noted that no official announcement had been made about such a meeting, and therefore it was "difficult to talk of its postponement." At the same time, he did not rule out the possibility of a meeting of the Yugoslav prime minister with the Russian leadership on his return from China.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1632 GMT on 15 September adds the following: "According to the Russian diplomat [Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, an official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry], the Yugoslavian leader, M. Panic, who appealed to Russia and China to block adoption of such a decision in the UN must have 'a possibility to use his chance to the very end'.

"In this case the new Yugoslavian leadership will be able to demonstrate its peaceableness, readiness to fulfill the UN resolutions which could lead to settlement of the conflict and consequently to abolishing of international sanctions against this country.

"The representative of the Foreign Ministry pointed out that 'if the Yugoslavian leader stops in Russia he will probably have meetings with the Russian leadership' on his return from China where he is now.

"If Yugoslavia leaves the international community then a possibility of active influence on it will be lost, one of the employees of the Russian Foreign Ministry made comments to a "DP" [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent on the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"He also added that the membership of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia in the UN is a difficult issue as many states express their discontent with the fact that the Union Republic of Yugoslavia allegedly inherited the place belonging to the former federative Yugoslavia, and

the newly formed states, Bosnia, Slovenia, and Croatia, though they entered the UN, have no place of their own."]

Talks With Cuba Begin in Havana 14 Sep

LD1509100492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0936 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Havana September 15 ITAR-TASS—Talks between Russia and Cuba on bilateral relations began in the Cuban Foreign Ministry on Monday [14 September]. The Cuban delegation to the talks is being led by Deputy Premier Lionel Soto Prieto, the Russian delegation by Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said in a communique circulated here.

The day before the talks opened, the Russian delegation was received by Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, the communique said.

The communique stressed that a frank and constructive exchange of views on the entire range of Cuban-Russian relations took place during the talks.

Palestinians Arrive To Discuss Mideast Security

OW1509181892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Andrey Borodin and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Palestinian delegation arrived in Moscow to take part in the work of the committee on arms control in the Middle East and regional security.

As DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned at the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Moscow, the committee was established when participants in the multilateral talks on a peaceful settlement in the Middle East met in the Russian capital in late January this year.

Members of the Palestinian delegation had a series of meetings with the representatives of Russia and the United States, the countries acting as co-sponsors in the process of settlement in the Middle East, and with members of delegations from other countries.

Ministry Concerned Over Iran-UAE Island Dispute

LD1509202292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1135 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 September—Moscow is receiving with concern reports on the renewed sharp disagreements between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the ownership of a number of islands in the Persian Gulf, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, press and information director of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated at a briefing today.

"Our starting point," he continued, "is that the growth of tension in this region, which is a highly sensitive area for a wide circle of states, is in the interests neither of the countries located there nor the international community as a whole." Russia, in his words, advocates "the establishment of smooth and stable relations between neighboring states in the Gulf." Such an approach, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy stated, presupposes the respect of these states for each other's state sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the rejection of unilateral action capable of damaging the interests of the other side.

In conclusion, the Russian diplomat stressed that Moscow hopes that the problem which has arisen between the UAE and Iran over ownership of the islands Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tumb will be resolved through "constructive dialogue and on the basis of the appropriate norms of international law."

Minister Views Paris Club Meeting on Debt Issue

LD1509201292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1835 GMT 15 Sep 92

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris, 15 September TASS—A meeting of representatives of 17 states-leading world creditors on discussion of the Russian foreign debt is a necessary stage of the long and uneasy way towards the elaboration of an agreement on a many-year delay in payments, Russian delegation head and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven told ITAR-TASS today, commenting on results of Monday's [14 September] meeting of the Paris Club.

In the words of the Russian minister, the meeting was not expected to adopt the final decision. It was mainly devoted to the exchange of ideas. The Russian delegation for several hours informed the audience on the situation in Russia, including the stage of Russian negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, its relations with the former Soviet republics, the payment situation and the currency market.

Aven said they believe they have completely fulfilled their mission to give their interlocutors a real understanding of Russian processes with the help of statistics valuable for specialists.

Asked whether the West will agree on the long-term delay of payments or Russia will have to agree on another 90-day pause in September upon the completion of another three-months moratorium, Aven expressed an opinion everyone is ready to sign the long-term agreement, but all the provisions must be coordinated and this work has not been completed.

As for the major problems in the agreement elaboration, these are, first of all, relations between the former Soviet republics. The Russian Federation has offered its partners—the former Soviet republics—to represent their interests in the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union so that mutual relations can be officially registered.

Russia has concluded agreements to the effect with Belarus and Turkmenistan.

This naturally changes all the scheme of Russian relations with the West, said the Russian delegation head. Russia is now offering a draft agreement on a completely new basis, a variant that has not been discussed.

Second, they will also have to produce an acceptable payment balance of the Russian Federation. Aven said they hope they will prepare an acceptable draft by the end of this September. In case they do not manage to do it in time, they will have to agree on another three-months delay with the Western partners and try to complete the job within that period.

Talks With Estonia End Without Result

LD1509075792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] The sixth round of Russian-Estonian talks, held over two days just outside Moscow, has ended. The chairman of the Leningrad Oblast soviet, Vladimir Gustov, told a news conference that the key issues were not resolved. He added that the schedule for a complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, by 1994, was reaffirmed, while the citizenship and status of Russian-speakers in this Baltic republic were raised, but to no avail. Gustov's opinion is that the talks are proceeding with difficulty because political considerations take priority over common sense.

Government, Kazakhstan Sign Cooperation Accord

LD1509184492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 15 September—A protocol on economic cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan was signed today by Andrey Nechayev, Russia's economics minister, and Tleukhan Kabdrakhmanov, chairman of the Kazakhstan State Committee for the Economy.

Andrey Nechayev told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the document reflects the two parties' intentions to cooperate in the area of working out structural policy and in preparing forecasts on socio-economic development. Russia and Kazakhstan have expressed their readiness to prepare to carry out several joint investment projects, including the development of the mining industry, as well as ecological programs. Beside this, mechanisms have been outlined for cooperation in the area of currency and credits policy and coordination of state defense orders. The two sides have discussed the fundamental issues concerning the preparation of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan.

Judging by the speeches during the signing of the protocol, the sides differed on a number of issues but they are determined to look for "solutions to the problems." Tleukhan Kabdrakhmanov told journalists that the issue of mutual relations in the currency and credit sphere was one of the complex issues at the talks which preceded the signing. The Kazakh side put forward for discussion the initiative of President Nursultan Nazarbayev on turning the ruble into a supra-national currency within the framework of the ruble zone, and creating an inter-state bank union.

According to Andrey Nechayev, the Russian side supports the idea of creating a supranational inter-bank issue center. "We do not believe, however, that it can be properly elaborated and implemented next year," the Minister said. For the time being, therefore, Russia intends to stick to the old scheme according to which the ruble remains the Russian currency. Other CIS member-states will use it while the Russian Central Bank will become the main center of ruble issue, Andrey Nechayev concluded.

Government Issues Warning on Abkhazia Conflict

LD1409183192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1652 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—A statement published today by Georgiy Khizha, Russian Government deputy chairman and chairman of the special interregional commission under the Russian Security Council, states that the situation in Abkhazia, where armed clashes are continuing, still cause Russia serious concern. There have been cases of the use of aircraft and heavy artillery against civilians and settlements. There have been a large number of cases of continuing violent attacks, robberies and looting. Railroad traffic—of vital importance for the whole of the Transcaucasus—has not been restored, and other transport arteries are still blocked. Economic life remains on the verge of a complete standstill, the statement points out.

As before, basic law and order are lacking and human rights are being infringed in the conflict zone. The Russian population is experiencing suffering and hardship along with representatives of the other ethnic groups inhabiting Abkhazia. State property of Russia is also being damaged. Acts of provocation against Russian military units continue.

The statement calls on participants in the conflict to take immediate effective steps aimed at ensuring strict compliance with the Moscow accords on the peaceful settlement of the conflict. Otherwise, responsibility for refusal to abide by these documents, and for the consequences, will rest with the political and military leaders of the opposing sides, the statement stresses.

According to information received from Sochi, the Abkhaz situation has not improved. Military observers report from Gudauta that on 13 September a Georgian military sub-unit—four tanks and three armoured vehicles—carried out several attacks on Abkhaz positions in the area of the Kolkhida pass. The attacks were repelled. Details of the attack are being clarified. On the same day, at 1330, Georgian helicopters shelled the settlement of Ochamchir. Later, the Georgian side continued intermittent shelling of the Abkhaz positions in the area of Gudauta, using automatic weapons, the same source reported.

Also on 13 September, a report was received from the village of Eshery about the hooliganism of armed Chechens vis-a-vis the civilian population. A group of military observers which arrived there instigated criminal proceedings over this case.

No information has yet been received about today's scheduled sitting of the Abkhaz parliament in Sukhumi. Representatives of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, who are in Gudauta, said a rendezvous between members of the Abkhaz and Georgian factions was due to be held on the bridge over the Gumista River on Sunday, but the Georgian side failed to attend.

Parliamentarians Meet in Sochi on Abkhazia

OW1509110492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian and Abkhaz members of the Abkhaz parliament are to meet with the mediation of their Russian counterparts in Sochi today. This was reported to IF [INTERFAX] by the headquarters of the Georgian faction in the Abkhaz parliament.

According to preliminary reports, the meeting will be attended by the speaker of parliament Vladislav Ardzinba, his deputy Tamaz Nadareisvhili, deputy chairman of the Georgian State Council Jaba Ioseliani and the Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani.

The purpose of the Sochi meeting is to discuss the situation in Abkhazia and find mutually-acceptable solutions.

Meanwhile, exchanges of fire continued in the conflict zone last night. According to the military authorities in Gagra, gunmen of the Confederation of the Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus attacked Georgian army positions. The attack was rebuffed. There were no losses on the Georgian side. On Monday the Abkhaz blasted the Eshery railway bridge near Sukhumi.

There was no shooting this morning in Gagry or Sukhumi, but two Georgian combat helicopters delivered a rocket and bomb attack on Tkvarcheli dropping over 10 bombs in 15 minutes. No one was hurt. According to the head of the communication center of the town Daur Gogua, the TV tower was the target of the attack because the local TV studio conducted its broadcasts via it.

Presidium Supports Moscow Caucasus Talks

PM1609084792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

["Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium Statement in Connection With the Results of the 3 September 1992 Moscow Meeting"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium supports the concluding document of the meeting in Moscow between the Russian Federation president, the chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Council, the chairman of the Abkhazia Supreme Soviet, and North Caucasus republic, kray, and oblast leaders regarding the 5 September cease-fire in Abkhazia and an end to the use of any kind of force against one another.

By putting their signatures to the concluding document of the 3 September 1992 Moscow meeting, the Russian Federation president and the leaders of Georgia, Abkhazia, and also the North Caucasus republics, krays, and oblasts of Russia initiated a process of settling the conflict peacefully and, moreover, began the establishment of peace and mutual understanding both in Abkhazia and in the North Caucasus as a whole. This is all the more important because the actions of certain leaders of national and social movements in the North Caucasus region, which for all their outward patriotism do not reflect real social demands, have no legal basis, and contradict the Russian Federation Constitution, are causing us particular concern. We appeal to these leaders not to try to speak on behalf of the peoples and to desist from forming, arming, and dispatching paramilitary volunteer detachments, to consistently resolve problems of interethnic relations in the spirit of pooled efforts to establish a united Caucasus home, and to develop the traditions of cooperation, mutual respect, and goodwill that are characteristic of the wise people of the Caucasus who strive for stability and creativity.

Respecting the sovereignty of every state and the national worth of every people, we members of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium have no right to instruct them how to build their national life. But at this difficult and dramatic time for all the states that used to constitute the USSR, we would like the restraint, common sense, and wisdom inherent in our peoples to be manifested in a search for mutually acceptable solutions.

The difficult path of democratic transformations on which we are embarked first and foremost presupposes rigorous compliance with the norms of international law and basic human rights and freedoms, including the rights of national minorities and the right of peoples to self-determination.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium believes that the withdrawal from Abkhazia of armed forces from the Republic of Georgia, and also the disarmament, disbandment, and withdrawal from its territory of armed volunteer formations and individual armed persons from other regions should serve to further stabilize the situation in the conflict zone. The main thing now is to stop the bloodshed in Abkhazia and to prevent the spread of a spirit of aggression and war to the North Caucasus. Interethnic problems cannot be resolved by an escalation of tension and violence. They can be resolved only by peaceful political means and instruments—the only means that enables contradictions to be resolved, and specifically contradictions that arise on an interethnic basis.

If the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict cannot be completely settled by peaceful means and if hostilities continue between armed formations on both sides, the blame for this must rest entirely with the political and military leaders of the Republics of Georgia and Abkhazia, with the politicians who are calling for interethnic wars.

The Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium appeals to the leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia and the peoples of the North Caucasus, with their inherent wisdom and good everyday traditions of hospitality and good-neighborliness that are typical of working people, to join in the peacemaking process.

We express the sincere hope that, despite all the problems that exist, a political settlement of the conflict will be achieved, in the spirit that pervades the Moscow meeting document. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium will actively contribute to this, guided by the clear understanding that Russia's state and national interests are involved in the conflict that has flared up near the borders of the Russian Federation.

[Signed] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium. Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 7 September 1992

Talks With Ukraine 'Not Fully Satisfactory'

PM1509152192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Pavel Shinkarenko under the "Commonwealth" rubric: "Difficult Talks in Moscow Held Between Russian and Ukrainian Heads of Government"]

[Text] "The meeting was confidential, there is nothing to comment on," Vladimir Mashits, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation with Commonwealth Member States, replied to my question. Another participant in the two-hour talks, Viktor Gerashchenko, head of the Central Bank of Russia, also eschewed conversation. And only Petr Aven, Russian Federation minister of foreign economic relations, was somewhat more obliging: He informed me that in his department "questions of pay settlement relations between Russia and Ukraine were discussed, including the question of allocating funds to Ukraine."

Judging by the "secrecy" regime accompanying the dialogue and by the reserve of its participants (Yegor Gaydar and Vitold Fokin did not appear before journalists at all), presumably the Ukrainian premier's visit to Moscow proved to be far from straightforward, and the results of the talks are not fully satisfactory to either side.

What was the topic of the talks? During the Russian Federation Government session held the same day, Boris Yeltsin said that Ukraine had requested the allocation of 100 billion rubles. Experts assume that these credits are to be used to settle the accounts of Ukrainian enterprises with Russian partners. Another topic of the discussion on Staraya Ploshchad was undoubtedly the problem of Ukraine's participation in servicing the foreign debt of the former USSR. Petr Aven stated to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI that there are no signs that Kiev intends to participate in this deal. Although, I recall, the Ukrainian leader's signature is also on a statement on collective responsibility for the fate of credits received earlier. Vitold Fokin, in the Russian minister's words, explains his position by the fact that some Ukrainian enterprises have accounts in the Foreign Economic Bank and funds from these accounts are not being sent to Ukraine, but are being spent by Russia to pay Ukraine's foreign debt. Petr Aven did not rule out that this is taking place. But he called these sums "minimal" and incomparable with what Russia pays in priority payments.

It is not difficult to understand that this situation is not to the Russian Government's liking. Especially since Ukraine, unlike Belarus, whose international obligations Russia has assumed itself, has a fairly large share in the foreign debt and is capable of coping with it itself.

But does Ukraine intend to leave the ruble zone? The talks indicated that there is no question of this as yet. However, Petr Aven, for example, believes that "the sooner this happens, the better for Russia."

Official on Biological Weapons Talks With U.S.

PM1509201392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Golts: "Intelligence Report Was Inaccurate, But It Appears Neither We Nor the West Suffered"]

[Text] This story, which began as a run-of-the-mill diplomatic scandal from the period of confrontation, is continuing wholly in the spirit of the new times. And it will end, perhaps, with the elimination of what Grigoriy Berdennikov, Russian deputy foreign minister, called one of the last "ailments of the cold war."

Recently Western Governments were, to put it mildly, inaccurately informed by their own special services, who took a fowl plague vaccine which the St. Petersburg Institute of Specially Pure Biological Preparations was

producing to be military research banned by the 1972 convention. Some fairly harsh statements addressed to Moscow then ensued. The West asked: What about Boris Yeltsin's promises to end the violations of the ban on the development of biological weapons which the USSR used to commit in the past? The foreign press went even further and drew the conclusion that the Russian President has no control over his generals.

According to the "conventional" pattern of confrontation we should have responded with sharp rebuttals and counteraccusations. Especially since the Russian military experts also have grounds for suspicion.

However, instead of a futile exchange of recriminations a different path was chosen. Delegations from Russia, the United States, and Britain headed by the deputy chiefs of the respective foreign policy departments met in Moscow. The delegations consisted of representatives of the leaderships of the defense ministries and other government institutions. As a result of the consultations Russia proved by means of facts that it has terminated offensive biological research and scrapped the infrastructure for conducting that research, dismantled the production lines, and closed down the test facilities. The Russian president also ordered an examination of the Institute of Specially Pure Biological Preparations in St. Petersburg in which foreign experts could take part. Furthermore, we agreed to let the foreign representatives visit any nonmilitary installation. So long as commercial information is respected, of course.

But this is not a unilateral concession, as Grigoriy Berdennikov, deputy foreign minister, and Major General of the Medical Service Valentin Yevstigneyev, deputy chief of the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Radiation, Biological, and Chemical Protection, stressed in conversation with journalists. There will be similar visits to U.S. and British installations on the same basis.

Last and most important. The representatives of the Russian foreign policy and military departments pointed out that the main success of the talks was that a move has been made toward creating a mechanism to monitor the observance of the provisions of the 1972 convention. This is an extraordinarily difficult thing to do because the distinction between the development of biological weapons and the creation of the means of protection against them is a very fine one. Nevertheless, the absence of such a mechanism, as Grigoriy Berdennikov stressed, creates scope for mutual suspicions. It has been decided to create expert working groups to examine the possibility of inspecting military biological installations and to elaborate other measures to monitor [kontrol] the fulfillment of the convention. In particular, the infrastructure of biological installations in the three countries will be studied to determine whether they have any special equipment and excess potential incompatible with commitments made. Meanwhile, according to Gen. Yevstigneyev, experts will exchange specific proposals in the very near future. So, instead of fueling a propaganda war the sides have opted for difficult but constructive talks.

Government To Open Office in Chita for China

OW1509143892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1357 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government has instructed the Foreign Ministry to open a branch in the Transbaikal town of Chita. The first task the branch will be charged with is negotiating with Chinese authorities visa-free movement across the border for people living in the border areas of Chita Region and China.

Apart from that, consultations are to be held with Chinese government agencies on an agreement on a free trade zone in the Zabaikalsk-Manchuria border area and a trade zone on an island in the vicinity of the villages of Starotsurukhaitui in Russia and Heishangtow in China.

CSFR Economy Minister Comments on Debts, Trade

AU1509184192 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 12 Sep 92 p 3

[CSTK report: "CSFR Economy Minister Held Talks on the Fate of Russia's Debts"]

[Text] Moscow—During yesterday's talks with CSFR Economy Minister Jaroslav Kubecka, Russian Vice Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha promised that he would do everything he could for Russia to meet its financial commitments toward Czechoslovakia to establish prerequisites for cooperation on normal commercial foundations.

The Czechoslovak delegation also included representatives of the Czech and Slovak Governments. The minister told the Russian side that both republics have identical views on the problems under discussion and want to act vis-a-vis Russia as one partner also next year.

Russia owes the CSFR almost $5 billion on aggregate. This year it has repaid Czechoslovak enterprises $20 million out of the $600 million of their claims stemming from the year 1991. The Federal Government delegation also discussed in Moscow, thus far unsuccessfully, the preparation of the trade protocol for next year.

Norway To Open Consulates in 3 Russian Towns

LD1609094292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The opening of consulates of the Kingdom of Norway in some northern Russian cities will facilitate the restoration of coastal trade between Russia and Norway. By decision of the Russian Government, Norway has been granted the right to open general

consulates in St. Petersburg and Murmansk, and an honorary consul's office in the town of Nikel.

Australian Ambassador To Visit Russian Far East

LD1609023292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0732 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vitrishchak]

[Text] Khabarovsk September 14 TASS—Practical interaction in supplies of farm produce from Australia to Russian Far Eastern region will be in the focus of Australian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia Cavan Hogue's visit to Russia.

People in the Amur River area have shown special interest in cooperating with Australia in various fields. The first Russo-Australian joint enterprises are already operating here.

The region is unable to produce enough food to meet the needs of the local population because of the adverse weather and climatic conditions, so supplies from Australia look very promising.

The ambassador also intends to discuss the agenda for Australian Foreign Trade Minister John Kerin's forthcoming visit to Khabarovsk in November.

Political Issues

Gaydar Makes Tour of Central Russian Towns

Met by Picketers in Smolensk

OW1509170492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting Russian Government head Yegor Gaydar, completing his trip around the country, visited industrial enterprises in Smolensk Tuesday [15 September], including local flax combines.

Just as he did Monday in Novgorod, the acting premier encountered groups of peasants picketing the city administrational building. The picketers carried signs sharply criticizing the cabinet. One sign read, "The old man killed Russians with bullets—his grandson kills them with reforms".

Mr. Gaydar became acquainted with the life and working conditions of farmers in the Roslavskiy region, almost 100 kilometers from Smolensk.

It is expected that the acting premier will speak in Smolensk Tuesday evening at a community meeting and that his speech will be broadcast live over the city and district. He will also answer questions from journalists at a press conference.

Upbeat on Smolensk Economic Reforms

LD1509204192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Video report from Smolensk by correspondent V. Vengrzhnovskiy, including recorded remarks by Acting Russian Premier Yegor Gaydar—from the "Vesti" program]

[Excerpts] Continuing a tour around ancient Russian towns, Yegor Gaydar arrived in Smolensk today. [passage omitted]

[Gaydar] I think Smolensk is one of the regions where reforms are under way, and quite successfully. Active work with farmers on reorganizing state and collective farms. Very serious and potentially interesting, in my view, work associated with attracting retired officers to private farms. It seems to me, socially, as well as economically and politically, this is a most important undertaking, which we will support by all means and hope that other oblasts will also support.

Activities Reported

LD1509203292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1836 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Smolensk, Central Russia, September 15 TASS—Prices in Russia have grown 15-fold on average since the beginning of the decontrolling of prices, Russia's acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said here on Tuesday [15 September].

He is currently on a three-day tour of Central Russia to review the pace of the economic reform in the region. On Monday Gaydar visited Novgorod. The tour will end with a trip on Wednesday to Tula region which neighbours on Moscow.

On Tuesday Gaydar familiarised himself with the operation of the Smolensk flax mill, the personnel of which have decided to buy out the huge enterprise within the framework of the current privatisation process in Russia, but are now concerned with an expected new increase in prices.

Gaydar also visited the local cheese-making complex, which recently became a joint-stock enterprise, and went to see a shoe factory which had been bought out by its workers.

While in Smolensk, Gaydar is also to acquaint himself with the position of farmers, meet the general public, hold a press conference and speak over the local radio.

Discusses Conversion Problems in Tula

OW1609102692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1008 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Wednesday [16 September] the acting Premier of the Russian Federation Yegor Gaydar who is making a tour over Russia's towns arrived to an ancient Russian town of Tula situated 200 kilometers to the south of Moscow. According to an "IF" [INTERFAX] special correspondent, Gaydar began his visit of one of the largest centers of defense industry with a meeting with leaders of the provincial administration and directors of defense enterprises. Problems of conversion of the military-industrial complex are supposed to be in the center of his attention.

In particular, the programme of Gaydar's visit envisages time for acquaintance with a defense enterprise "Shtamp" and the largest metallurgical enterprise of the town—a stock society "Tulachermet". The acting leader of the government is supposed to visit an agrarian firm "Sazhenets".

Gaydar is expected to return to Moscow on Wednesday in the second half of the day.

Foreign Intelligence Aides on Restructuring

MK1109105792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 92 pp 1-2

[Reports by Natalya Gorodetskaya and Yelena Tregubova under "Top Secret" rubric: "Foreign Intelligence Has Repudiated Terrorism and Now Supplies Information to CIS Countries"]

[Text] [Gorodetskaya] In the two months the law "On Foreign Intelligence" has been in force, there has been no opportunity to demonstrate in practice its advantages over the former lawlessness. In practical terms it is being applied to the restructuring of the service's internal work—for example, the Communist Party's leadership role has been removed. Now it is the president and parliament who will guide the work of the Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS]. Such assertions were voiced yesterday at a news conference in which Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Defense and Security Committee, and Vyacheslav Trubnikov, first deputy director of the SVN [as published, expansion unknown; probably should read SVR—Foreign Intelligence Service], participated. But according to Stepashin, the law has fulfilled the most important of its intended functions: the amalgamation of the FIS and the Defense Ministry, so the formation of a new KGB-type monster concentrating enormous and virtually uncontrolled power in its hands is impossible.

Parliament—or more precisely, the Soviet of the Republics Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices Commission, and the Supreme Soviet Defense and Security Committee—will control the FIS's activity, discuss questions pertaining to budget allocations and operational activities at closed sessions, and hear a report by the service director twice a year. Under the law, the deputies are now entitled to request and receive any documents connected with intelligence. But likewise, deputies "will be answerable for divulging state secrets in the same way as all ordinary mortals," Sergey Stepashin stressed. Right now, a law "On Parliamentary Control..." is under preparation, where these questions will be discussed. "The FIS also intends to participate actively in the elaboration of this law," Vyacheslav Trubnikov declared. Parliamentary control does not frighten intelligence workers, Trubnikov asserted, as they hope that the deputies who will be working on the Supreme Soviet's intercommittee commission on the department—which has already been set up—will be "true patriots who understand just what a state secret is."

So far, no doubt, not everybody has understood what constitutes a state secret, as a result of which, clearly, the FIS is in no hurry to hand over its documents to the state archives. "This issue can only be settled if a law on archives is passed," Trubnikov said. Even now, intelligence documents are highly valued—this year alone three traitors have been uncovered in the service, "who basically passed on details of the skilled personnel" [vyyavleny tri izmennika, "v osnovnom, passhifrovavshikh kadrovyy sostav"], and if you add another 18 months the figure rises to seven traitors. Now, fortunately, it is possible "to legalize the process," and their cases will be handed over to the prosecutor's office. Moreover, the action of our laws has been stipulated in countries with which legal agreements have been concluded. So now a traitor will not be able to hide abroad. But in no event will "terrorist acts be applied" against any one of them—the new law forbids it.

[Tregubova] In answer to a question from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent on the place that industrial espionage will now occupy in the activities of foreign intelligence, Vyacheslav Trubnikov replied: "With respect to scientific and technical intelligence, we are maintaining it...but it is being reorganized.... It was not just our internal motives that pushed us into this but external motives, too—in particular, those betrayals that have taken place in recent times in precisely this sphere of activity." Trubnikov explained that in connection with "ever more frequent betrayals" the FIS leadership is elaborating at the present moment a new concept for their ideological training of intelligence workers. Despite this, the foreign intelligence leader complained: Russia is in no position to consume everything we receive.... In the old days there were more orders placed.

Journalists were interested to know if the legalization of the right of "skilled staffers to occupy posts in ministries, departments, and institutes without exposing their attachment to foreign intelligence" means that the FIS has been able to reach agreement with the leadership of the Russian Foreign Ministry, after it had declared earlier that it no longer wished to shelter agents under its roof. "The Foreign Ministry is not just one person. There is a minister, there is a deputy minister.... On the whole, the Foreign Ministry does not object"—this was the answer given by the news conference organizers. "The question has more to do with how many of these people there are, and what they are strictly engaged in.

As it turned out, the FIS leaders were implying by their concern over agents' pursuits: "We will not support idlers and parasites abroad on our money."

On the subject of exposing previous terrorist acts, the intelligence staffers said that they are looking very closely at their archives now, and if they see that "terrorism is lodged in the depths of foreign intelligence," then they will announce this immediately.

Russian foreign intelligence does not intend to lose its close links either with East Europe's secret services or the corresponding organs of "nearby foreign lands." Moreover, as it emerged, "the main information flow to the CIS countries that signed the Alma-Ata agreement" is in fact effected precisely by this former KGB subdivision.

Official Interviewed on New Communications Agency

PM1109161192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 First Edition p 6

[Interview with cryptographer N. Andreyev by Aleksandr Golubev under the "Special Services" rubric; place and date not given: "More Business People Will Be Approaching FAGCI"]

[Text] The Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information [FAGCI] has been set up by decree of the Russian president. Our correspondent met with Lenin and State prizewinner N. Andreyev, first deputy general director of FAGCI and president of the

Russian Cryptographic Academy, and asked him to talk about the new state structure.

"The agency is supposed to provide the president, organs of state power and administration, and nonstate, including commercial, structures with special types of communications and information," Nikolay Nikolayevich said. "FAGCI will also authorize the operation of cryptographic facilities in our country and control their use. In other words, the agency is the principal Russian organization dealing with matters of secret communications security.

"Hence our functions. We devise the cryptographic requirements for cipher equipment and evaluate its special qualities. It has to be said that the creation of reliable cryptographic facilities is an extremely complex task and it can only be done by countries with a very high scientific-technical potential. There are more than 300 doctors and candidates of sciences among the scientists and engineers working in FAGCI. We are also enlisting the cooperation of Academy of Sciences institutes and other higher educational establishments. We are not starting from scratch, of course. The country already has a highly developed industrial sector specializing in the creation of cipher equipment. Cryptography here is just as good as foreign, including American, cryptography.

[Golubev] Do other organizations have the right to be involved in the cryptographic protection of information?

[Andreyev] Yes, if they have a license entitling them to devise, produce, maintain, and sell cipher equipment and other facilities and devices designed to protect information. Our agency issues authorization to obtain licenses.

[Golubev] There is no need to ask why you have these tight controls...

[Andreyev] Obviously, given the transition to the market there is a much greater need for the protection of commercial information. There is a demand now for the relevant cryptographic facilities. Leading banks and exchanges are starting to set up their own information protection departments. But there are not enough skilled specialists in nonstate structures... Considerable material damage can be done both to individual enterprises and, indeed, in some cases, to the state as a whole. State certification of cryptographic facilities is supposed to avert this threat.

Another reason is the possibility of the disclosure of information on state ciphers. It has to be said that the demands on commercial and state ciphers are different. State ciphers have to keep the information they protect secret for several decades. This is not required of commercial ciphers. So state ciphers are top-secret in every country. Giving FAGCI the right to issue certificates is supposed to prevent leaks of data on state ciphers.

I would add that information on ciphers is a technological secret, therefore it is the intellectual property of the state. Incidentally, in the West, even private firms demand a written commitment from their employees not to use for several years technological secrets to which they have become party.

[Golubev] FAGCI is responsible for providing commercial structures with special types of communications. What does this mean in practical terms?

[Andreyev] If commercial secrets have to be protected from competitors this is handled by the enterprise itself. But it is clear that on entering the world market our firms could find themselves at a disadvantage: Western companies have a great deal of experience with industrial espionage. To protect their information they use cryptographic and other devices that are developed, as a rule, in line with special services' specifications. The special services, active collectors of economic information, openly assist such firms. As the heads of U.S. radio intelligence themselves say, it is a matter of deliberate electronic surveillance of specific foreign companies. In this situation, the quality of the commercial information protection facilities is particularly important. Efforts to resolve this problem on an "amateur" basis, without involving FAGCI, will only lead to unwarranted waste of time and money.

[Golubev] Can our commercial organizations use foreign cryptographic devices?

[Andreyev] Yes, but again they will need our agency's authorization—to import the devices into the country and to operate them. The purpose of the controls is to prevent unstable cryptographic systems "spying" for the West from appearing in our network.

[Golubev] But let us suppose there are those who want to circumvent FAGCI controls. What can you do about it?

[Andreyev] A Law on Licensing will be adopted soon, apparently. Obviously it will not concern our activities alone. This document will not only set forth the licensing rules, but will also determine the system of controls and establish liability for breaking the law. So control will be exercised at state level.

[Golubev] Has your activity been affected by conversion?

[Andreyev] Partly. Previously we were mainly engaged in protecting government, diplomatic, and military communications networks, now we have started looking at the protection of commercial information. We are suggesting to some commercial structures that they subscribe to existing closed government communications networks. Aside from keeping their secrets safe, they will be able to make direct contact with the country's leadership in order to be able to resolve problems expeditiously. Naturally, government communications security does not suffer as a result.

Incidentally, any scientific organizations can participate in the competitive development of commercial cryptographic facilities.

We are willing to cooperate with state and commercial structures on a wide scale.

Khabarovsk Satellite Communication Center Opens

OW1509105192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by V. Surnin; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] [Surnin] It has become possible today to call any place on earth from Khabarovsk using an international satellite communications system. The first telephone conversation with Tokyo was made by the representatives from Japanese trade companies accredited at the Kray center. A station analogous to this one was activated during the winter with the aid of the Far East Television and Radio Company, but it could not satisfy the needs of emerging business in the Far East.

But this station for satellite communications was created by the Russian Vostokinfokosmos joint stock company, in cooperation with U.S. firms. U.S. partners supplied equipment worth $1.1 million, and they plan to create a regional communications network encompassing all the krays and oblasts of Eastern Siberia and the Far East in the next stage. Information services are also envisioned, but the main thing is that Khabarovsk has gained access to the most modern and practical information, which is a thing valued above all else in the civilized business world.

[Begin recording] [Pashkin] This antenna is aimed at the Intelsat satellite and will provide for communications between Khabarovsk and other places, and subscribers in the U.S. and Japan. The system is completely automated.

The second system is aimed at the Soviet Gorizont Satellite, and is designed for regional communications. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Gritsuk, president of Vostokinfokosmos joint stock company] I think that after the first call was made and a series of firms learned that our communication system is reliable and works well, we will have no further problems. We have already concluded contracts with seven organizations—among them firms like Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Inturist, (?Amurtrading) and so on. I think that the question of customers has been solved. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Yu. M. Polyntsev, director of the Parus business center] We are witnessing the incarnation of the magnificent idea of satellite communications. This used to be a very serious problem for the Far East, because there can be no serious talk about foreign economic activity without creating satellite communications. This first communication link was tried at the Parus business center yesterday. I talked to my president myself, and he was surprised, thinking I was in Tokyo. I hope that this communication link will work very reliably. This is really great. [end recording] [Video concludes with a closeup shot of satellite dish]

Yeltsin Speech on State Policy Priorities Viewed

PM1609103592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Sep 92 p 1

[Lyubov Tsukanova "Commentary": "Peace—But Will It Last Long?"]

[Text] The all-Russian conference of leaders of legislative and executive power demonstrated a mutual desire to overcome disagreements. But it will not be easy to realize it.

The fact that President Yeltsin went to Cheboksary instead of Japan says a great deal. Above all, it attests that priority in state policy today is evidently given to preserving social stability in society. One of the most important conditions for this is "peacemaking" and the concerted working of two branches of power—legislative and executive. Leaders of soviets and heads of administrations gathered together for the first time, and for the first time the government and the Supreme Soviet sent such a strong and representative "landing force" to the conference—leaders of ministries and departments, members of the Supreme Soviet, chairmen of parliamentary committees and commissions, and people's deputies representing various factions in parliament. Thus, the factor of direct communication was brought fully into play and will probably play its part.

Devoting a considerable part of his speech to the question of concerted activity in implementing the reforms, the president used the conference rostrum to expound his viewpoint on the priority tasks of state policy. These include, above all, the realization of the provisions of the Federation Treaty, which is still at the level of a political declaration. Earnest, painstaking work has to be done to demarcate powers between federal and regional organs of power. The president believes that the federal organs of management must "concentrate efforts in areas of general importance" (conversion, the preservation and development of advanced sectors, fundamental science, military reform, and so on) and transfer to the regional level such areas as the development of small and medium enterpreneurships, social programs, ecology, and the use of natural resources. The president pointed out that there is an urgent need for legal reform in Russia and for reform of local self-management. He also expressed his negative attitude toward the holding of new elections both of soviets and of administration heads: "A global cadre shakeup can lead only to unjustified interruptions in reform."

The debate at the conference showed a whole range of attitudes to problems of state power. Many reciprocal complaints were made about federal and regional power, representative and executive power. Although there were extreme viewpoints in evidence, the conference participants nonetheless strove for mutual understanding.

Summing up, Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov emphasized that we still live in a rigid unitary state, and our task is to transfer it to a regime of federalism. This will not be easy, but without this the contradictions between federal and local organs of management cannot be resolved, just as the economic reform cannot be advanced without constructive cooperation between the two branches of power.

Power System Overcoming Growing Pains

Russian President Boris Yeltsin:

If the authorities in some region want to live on an island of so-called "developed socialism," it is up to them. But they are actually accountable for the results of their activity to the population who elected them. The Russian Government will not tolerate demanding methods directed against state taxation policy. When a real threat to Russian statehood arises, we will not make concessions. Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov:

The conference is worth a very great deal, for it has outlined ways to unite forces. This is particularly important because the "remote regions," on which the success of the reform primarily depends, have gathered for a meeting with the central power. Therefore the attempts to find a common language here between the executive power and the legislative power are exceptionally important. Enough of carping and confrontation, let us seek healthy bases and jointly implement reforms.

Russian Minister of Justice Nikolay Fedorov:

The idea of separating the powers is an idea of neutralizing the folly of one power with the independence of the other, and vice versa. The legislative power frequently takes it upon itself to resolve questions that are the prerogative of the executive power—the president and the government and the other executive structures. Now another center has been formed and is encroaching upon the competence of parliament and the government: I mean the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Supreme Soviet chairman. A number of ordinances of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the head of parliament go far beyond their powers.

Russian Federation General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov:

Contradictory lawmaking activity in the provinces enables various power structures both at the center and in the provinces to occupy niches in entrepreneurship—which creates conditions for wide-scale corruption. There are a particularly large number of violations in the sphere of housing privatization. These violations are of the nature of legal nihilism on the part of many officials.

Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev:

The Cheboksary conference signifies a shift of public opinion in the Russian Federation toward the idea of creation. This is precisely why representatives of all the power structures both at the center and in the provinces are persistently seeking an opportunity to strengthen cooperation on a new equitable basis. Jointly formulated tax policies and methods of sharing out property must constitute such a basis. The approaches to resolving these questions can be original for the various regions and territories of Russia.

Economic Issues

Peasants Threaten Strike Over Tax, Other Issues

OW1509143792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On midday, Tuesday [15 September], the peasants who, they claimed, represented all regions of Russia, gathered in Moscow to picket the building of the Russian Government. Among the picketers were state, collective and individual farmers.

They demanded that the fettering value-added tax be abolished, the debts for the years 1990 and 1991 be paid back to them, price parity be established on agricultural produce and industrial goods, soft loans be given to farmers, and processing and construction enterprises of the agro-industrial complex be privatized with due account taken of the farmers' and peasants' interests.

The picketers warned that it was their "last soft action" and that they would go on strike, using methods "corresponding to the nature of their work" if the Russian Government refused to have talks with them. A peasant told an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent that farmers and peasants will not stop cultivating land or feeding the cattle. He warned, however, that they may suspend supplies of agricultural produce to the cities for a week or so and "see how the situation will develop".

Ruble Exchange System Change Not Considered

LD1509172392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1418 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By BIZNES-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 September—For the immediate future, the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] intends to keep to the previous system of fixing the single ruble exchange rate on the basis of the results of currency market trading, a CBR spokesperson stated in a conversation with the BIZNES-TASS correspondent.

In his words, "rumors about the introduction in the near future of a new procedure for setting the exchange rate are groundless." At the same time, he noted that "at present, certain options for a new procedure for fixing the rate are indeed being examined, but any fundamental changes to the existing currency regulation mechanism

are only possible, after approval by the bank's management, at the upcoming session of the Russian Supreme Soviet."

Commenting on this problem, market observers note that the introduction of a fixed currency exchange rate could lead to the disorganization of the internal currency market, a fall in the government's "rating," and an obvious stalling of reforms. Such a decision, they believe, will cause a reduction in export-import operations, and a sharp increase in the activity of the "black" currency market, along with an inevitable jump in the dollar rate. This will immediately upset the fragile equilibrium of the developing currency market.

New Small Business Support Agency Set Up

LD1609161292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—A project to set up Russia's agency of support for small and medium-sized business enterprises was made public here on Tuesday [15 September].

The work of the new organisation, supported by Russia's Antimonopoly Committee and advised by leading British business agencies with the aid of the Know-How Foundation, is expected to be aimed at helping anyone wishing to set up a business of his own irrespective of the previous experience.

The Russian government has alloted a two-storey mansion in Moscow's Mosfilm Street for the agency. The mansion will be reconstructed before November. The principal aim of the agency is to promote large-scale development of small business in Russia, the training of personnel and experienced instructors for it, British Employment Secretary Gillian Shephard told a news conference on the occasion of the presentation of the project.

More than a year-long cooperation between the British Employment department and its Russian counterparts has made it possible to work out 28 projects of support for entrepreneurship. The cost of the projects is estimated at 1,000 million pounds sterling. A quarter of the amount has been used to set up the Russian agency for support of small and medium-sized business, Shephard said.

According to Leonid Bochin, acting chairman of the Antimonopoly Committee of Russia, at the first stage of the creation of the agency, the founders—the Uralmash Amalgamation, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Lada-Bank, and the Small Business Support Foundation—have donated 14 million roubles to prepare its training personnel.

Due to the Business Revival Centre, there has arisen an opportunity to set up a ramified network of the agency's regional branches which will make it possible to quickly spread Western business experience in the most remote areas of Russia.

Head of Small Business Committee Interviewed

OW1409115592 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 7 Sep 92

[Studio interview with Petr Andreyevich Mekhkov, chairman of the Committee for the Support of Small Enterprises and Entrepreneurship under the State Committee for Property Management of Russia, by Mikhail Solntsev; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Solntsev] We are continuing our program, and now we would like to talk about the state of affairs of such popular concepts today as business and entrepreneurship and generally what they mean and how they will develop in the future. With this in mind we invited Petr Andreyevich Mekhkov, chairman of the Committee for the Support of Small Enterprises and Entrepreneurship under the Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for Property Management] of Russia, to visit our studio. Good morning Petr Andreyevich.

[Mekhkov] Good morning.

[Solntsev] Your committee has such a long name. Has it been in existence for very long?

[Mekhkov] Its name is exactly in inverse proportion of the length of time it has been in service. Actually we began working only at the beginning of August, but the tasks facing the committee are fairly large.

[Solntsev] You know it is a rather strange name, committee for the support of entrepreneurship. It would appear that the people do not have any entrepreneurial skills and so they must be supported and developed.

[Mekhkov] No, I would not put it that way. The fact of the matter is that entrepreneurship, particularly its developing aspect, has always needed support, and in some cases even protection, in any country, because monopolies, and not just those of state structures, about which much is being written, also exist among created entrepreneurial structures. Normal conditions for the emergence and rise of competition in the entrepreneurial field must be ensured. This is what the committee was created for.

[Solntsev] What will you be doing specifically? Will you be giving advice or will it be a kind of good deeds bureau, for a price or for free?

[Mekhkov] The committee is meant to assist in the establishment of normal conditions for the work of any entrepreneur in any sphere. Now in connection with this we are looking more towards drawing up more precise legislation, improving it from the point of view of protecting the rights of entrepreneurs and creating more favorable conditions. This means helping to create a

market infrastructure so that help and the necessary services can be given in practically any part of the country.

[Solntsev] Now will you not be accused...[changes thought] Presently many various structures, as it is popular to call them—the word organization has been kind of forgotten—funds, and committees are now being created. Will you not be accused that this is just the latest little obscure bureaucratic mechanism into which officials from various old bureaucratic departments will transfer? Are you not afraid of this accusation?

[Mekhkov] Well this kind of accusation may be made at first. We already have this kind of stereotype and it is quite persistent. I simply hope that in the course of its work the committee will disprove this. As far as the transfer of the nomenklatura is concerned, you know that a high level apparatus worker is also a very good specialist and I would be happy if some of these transferring nomenklatura workers came to work for me.

[Solntsev] I understand. Now what are your programs like? What kind of businesses or entrepreneurship will you be supporting? Yes, and another question, maybe you can answer it right away. Is honest business possible in our country at all? Many people say it is impossible.

[Mekhkov] The problem exists. In other words I would not contradict the assertion that it is difficult to organize an honest business in our country. But the fact of the matter is that it is precisely by helping in the large scale development of entrepreneurship that in my view will serve to make it more honest. A definite development program exists, or rather a complex program for the development of entrepreneurship is presently being worked out, and it envisages a fairly broad range of different approaches, which are based mainly on existing market structures. That is, not to substitute what already exists but to support as much as possible what has already emerged and what it is planned to create. We will not engage in entrepreneurial work ourselves, our task is to create the necessary conditions.

[Solntsev] Good, but for many years, as we now like to say ironically, we were building a radiant future. Yet we ended up building what has recently been more accurately termed a society of decaying socialism. What will you appeal for in your support programs—for capitalism or a renewed socialism, or have you given this any thought at all?

[Mekhkov] Well you know, these terms are more political in nature. In this regard entrepreneurship is apolitical. In other words, regardless of the social and political orientation of the system, small enterprises and entrepreneurship must be developed. In this sense the task facing entrepreneurship is to survive, and only then, after becoming robust, should it become a basis for active development of society.

[Solntsev] Very well, then, could you be more specific? Let us suppose that you already have an address and people need your advice and help. When can they contact you and how should they do it? Should they write a letter or visit in person, or send a telegram asking for help? How should it be done?

[Mekhkov] Requests can be sent in any form to the following address: 103685, Moscow City, Vladimirova Passage, House No.9.

[Solntsev] Let me repeat that. Index 103685, Moscow City, Vladimirova Passage, House No.9. Who should it be addressed to?

[Mekhkov] To the Committee for Support of Small Enterprises and Entrepreneurship.

[Solntsev] And what will someone be able to get if they visit you? A number of documents, or how will this work?

[Mekhkov] First of all the recommendation will depend on the issue raised and what organs need to be approached to solve the problem. Naturally they will be as close as possible to the place where the person lives, because organizations in those places, the heads of administrations, and the antimonopoly committee or the Goskomimushchestvo, as well as commercial structures that deal with these questions and give recommendations for a reasonable price, are sufficient for this.

Besides, if we talk about money, and this is inevitable, then it would be better to immediately approach the International Fund for Support of the Economic Reforms in Russia directly. Its telephone number is 206-31-53.

[Solntsev] Let me repeat that: 206-31-53 is the number for the International Fund for Support of the Economic Reforms in Russia. That is, if you need money.

[Mekhkov] Yes.

[Solntsev] The last question. In order to allay any accusations that your state committee is a new bureaucratic institution, what is the size of your staff, Petr Andreyevich?

[Mekhkov] Naturally it has not been fully formed yet since we were created quite recently. We plan to have 100 people and we already have some 30 people working. So practically all services are represented, and so to some extent we are ready to respond to requests and give a helping hand.

[Solntsev] Well, thank you for being a guest of our program at such an early hour. The guest of our program was Petr Andreyevich Mekhkov, chairman of the Committee for Support of Small Enterprises and Entrepreneurship of Russia. Thank you very much and I wish you successes in supporting entrepreneurship and small enterprises.

[Mekhkov] Thank you, and all the best.

Basic Foodstuffs Prices Rise 9.2% in August

PM1409140992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Irina Nikolskaya of the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, under the general heading: "Growth of Prices Last Week and During August"]

[Text] The rate of growth for the prices of basic foodstuffs doubled during the period 25 August-1 September. Retail trade prices increased by an average of 3.9 percent in Russia, and by 4.4 percent taking the prices at city markets into account.

The tendency for prices to increase weekly at the level of just 1-2 percent, which prevailed during the three summer months, has been broken. During August the prices of basic foodstuffs in 132 cities where observations are made increased by an average of 9.2 percent.

The cost of bread increased substantially during last week. Black rye and wheat bread went up 21 percent, wheat bread made from first- and second-grade flour went up 13 percent, and wheat bread made from top-grade flour went up by an average of 10 percent, but in Vladimir, Yaroslavl, Belgorod, Astrakhan, and Armavir it went up at once by 50-200 percent and now costs 25-30 rubles per kilogram. The price of salt increased 9 percent.

On 1 September the following retail trade prices (in rubles per kilogram or liter) were recorded in separate parts of Russia:

Regions	Beef	Milk	Butter	Potatoes
Northern	94.8	14.6	199.1	28.9
Central	85.9	11.9	183.0	20.3
Volga	73.5	6.6	158.8	12.6
North Caucasus	86.1	9.2	183.2	13.8
Urals	86.2	9.2	182.6	21.9
Far Eastern	140.1	10.4	233.5	30.2

At the end of August, just as at the end of July, 30-40 of the 70 products under observation were not on sale in more than half the cities. Fish products, rye flour, and certain kinds of groat, pasta, and bread and flour products are still in short supply. There are more frequent interruptions in the trade in sugar. On the other hand, the number of cities where potatoes, beets, carrots, and dairy products have appeared on sale has increased 50 percent.

Basic Foodstuffs Costs Up 750% Since December

PM1409143192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Yuriy Yurkov of the Economic Situation and Forecasting Center under the Russian Ministry of the Economy, under the general heading: "Growth of Prices Last Week and During August"]

[Text] Despite serious interruptions in trade, growth in food sales was recorded in August for the first time in the past six months—an increase of 9.5 percent over July. Signs of a speculative demand for food began to appear in the latter half of August in connection with an expected price hike.

The growth in the volume of sales was influenced to some extent by the end of the vacation season and of the school and student holidays. The volume of sales of meat, sugar, butter, groats, vegetables, and fruit increased during the month. Sales of eggs and flour dropped.

The situation in the city markets is shaping up ambivalently. Prices there, in general, were stable during August, while the prices of individual types of goods and individual goods even fell—prices of vegetables, fruit, and eggs. During last week prices in the markets increased at once by an average of 5.6 percent. Market meat, meat products, and eggs increased almost 9 percent at once. Despite the abundance of vegetables and fruit (the volume of sales in August was 27 percent higher than in July), their prices increased 6 percent during the past week. Cabbages, onions, and garlic went up.

The cost of a basket of 19 basic foodstuffs constituting the physiological minimum for a 45-year-old able-bodied man stood at an average of 1,568 rubles [R] as of 1 September. This was 13 percent more than in July, and 750 percent more than last December. There was a narrowing of the gap between the price of this basket in the least "expensive" city—Ulyanovsk (R1,039)—and the most "expensive" city—Vorkuta (R2,802). The biggest increase in the price of this critical minimum during August was in the Central Chernozem Region. In Voronezh, for example, its cost increased 44 percent, and in Belgorod—35 percent.

Military & Defense Issues

Databank To 'Unveil Secrets' of Defense Industry

LD1609090692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0725 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Frolov]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 16 TASS—The new "Conversion" databank is intended to unveil secrets, which remained classified for decades, thereby interfering with technical progress and limiting the export

possibilities of St. Petersburg defence enterprises. It was set up by Russian experts jointly with specialists from the German "Dresdner Bank", one of the leading financial centres of Europe. This "informational encyclopedia" contains data on the scientific and technical potential of industrial firms, designing and construction organisations. It also contains information on new products of commercial importance.

"The databank is part and parcel of a comprehensive programme to help switch St. Petersburg defence enterprises to peaceful rails, which we are drawing up jointly with some international foundations," Constructor-General of the "Rubin" Naval Designing Bureau Academician Igor Spasskiy said. "With its help we plan to enhance the efficiency of defence enterprises. 'Information bridges' have to be created to ensure a flexible transition to new kinds of production within the powerful St. Petersburg defence complex".

Almost 250 enterprises have already provided the necessary information. They informed the databank makers about their latest output, original technologies and scientific achievements. Of course, information on classified know-how and hardware were not included in the submitted lists.

Kokoshkin, Piskunov Inspect New Firearms

LD1509200992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1916 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS freelance writer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—First Deputy Russian Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on Defence and Security Issues Aleksander Piskunov today fired from practically all regular and some experimental samples of fire arms at the testing grounds of the Podolsk scientific-research institute of precision engineering.

They were guided by the need to establish the priority areas of development of Russian fire arms and check up themselves the new models of designers and engineers.

Russian fire arms correspond to the international standards as far as their combat efficiency is concerned. As for service-expeditionary characteristics, they considerably surpass all Western and Eastern samples.

Still, Podolsk designers are creating new fire arms, including a six-millimeter machine-gun, a sniper rifle, an Abakan automatic rifle and a gun exceeding in its fire power the TT [as received] gun characteristics.

Russian's best fire arms, created in the recent past, are a nine-millimeter automatic rifle and gun, capable of noiseless shooting without a silencer, fire arms for Navy special units, capable of effectively working under water, and some new elements of paratrooper equipment.

Visit Military Equipment Exhibition

LD1509221992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by G. Solomatin on an exhibition of new products from military industrial enterprises, including recorded remarks by First Deputy Defense Minister Kokoshkin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The exhibition of the equipment of the Russian Army's engineering troops, which took place near Moscow, showed the might of the military-industrial complex's works which are awaiting orders from civilian departments.

[Kokoshin] The engineering troops' equipment is, as a rule, dual-purpose equipment. One of the main directions of our new military-equipment policy in the Russian Defense Ministry is the all-around development of dual-purpose technology, to provide us with a sufficient amount of the latest equipment in the Army and to ensure that at the same time it should, in parallel, be available to industry and to the national economy of the country as a whole. [Video shows Kokoshkin inspecting displays of road-building and antimine equipment]

Military Reform Criticized; U.S. Reform Hailed

MK1209094092 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 37, 13 Sep 92 (Signed to press 8 Sep 92) p 7

[Major General Vladimir Dudnik article: "Military Reform: Eight Years of Marking Time"]

[Text] In mid-August the Russian president exercised the right of a delaying veto and returned the draft law "On Defense" to the Supreme Soviet. The reason was that he disagreed with the proposed procedure for appointing the minister of defense. I think this was just a pro forma pretext, and the real reason is most probably to be found in the fact that the draft law does not even contain a hint of military reform.

Even before perestroyka started, it was being said in officer circles that military reform was needed. But the subject was not allowed to be mentioned in public addresses. I recall the following episode.

In December 1989 the SOVETSKIY VOIN periodical held a discussion at the Military-Political Academy (now the Armed Forces Humanitarian Academy) on the progress of perestroyka in the Army. Colonel General Nikolay Kizyun, then chief of the academy, took part in the discussion. The conclusion of the discussion was that military reform was vital. But when it came to the publication of the report in the periodical Colonel General Kizyun begged: "Write whatever you like, but don't write about military reform."

At a session of the Bureau of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate (now abolished) in February

1990 Lieutenant General Ivan Panov, then chief editor of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, complained that Marshal D. Yazov was forbidding him to even mention the words "military reform"" in the newspaper.

It is curious that Yazov gave a report entitled "The Key Task in Military Reform" at an Army ideological workers' assembly in September of that same year.

Not long before the putsch he issued a brochure entitled "Military Reform." Admittedly, it only contained formulas on how under the guise of reform to prevent reform from actually happening. But the main thing was that the head of the military administrative system had switched from an enforced ban to the monopolization of the problem.

And the current Russian minister of defense, Army General Pavel Grachev, has stated unequivocally that he will not allow Army reform to be elaborated by majors or lieutenant colonels from among the democrats.

According to the scheme with which maybe everyone now agrees, military reform must incorporate the restructuring of all the structures that control the sphere of security and defense; the reform of the Army itself; and a radical review of its legal base and juridical system. And as a consequence—the creation of a new concept, mechanisms, and organs to shape the spiritual-moral potential of the troops.

But at the moment our staff and ministerial structures, which are being filled with prereform generals, are swelling, and vague promises are being given to reduce the Army to 2.5 million men by the year 2000. Is this reform, if we are marking time for almost eight years?

Meanwhile, the Americans needed exactly eight years to conclude their post-Vietnam reform. They have reduced the military budget by almost one-third. They have done away with outdated training and have closed around 500 military bases on U.S. territory alone. The Armed Forces draft is now effected on a professional basis. This has enabled them to raise the troops' professional standard while reducing their numbers by 35 percent.

The numerical strength of staff personnel has been significantly reduced, a number of commands have been abolished, and the efficiency of expenditure on science, equipment, and weapons has been increased. The Pentagon's accountability to Congress has increased. Nonstate centers of civilian expertise have become active: Public debates on military questions have become the norm.

In our country the fate of those released from the Army has become an almost insoluble problem. Unlike our commissions and councils of veterans, which are devoid of both rights and funding, America has established a department of veterans' affairs, has given it money, real estate, and rights, and has formulated a state program.

And is there a measure of the effectiveness of the Army which we dream about? Yes, there is. The Gulf War. In 40 days Western professionals routed an Iraqi Army built according to the Soviet model, armed with our weapons, and trained by us.

There was one condition—which here we keep quiet about—that enabled the United States to create such an Army. The Americans carried out independent research that showed that the greatest nonprofessionals are the generals. And after six years at the third stage they were retired into the reserve with honor and a respectable pension. The new Army was created by new generals.

For our current military leadership—as demonstrated by the "roundtable" "Army. Society. State" held recently by the Russian Academy of Sciences Sociology Institute—scientific substantiation, applied sociological research, the recommendations of independent experts, and the opinion of the taxpayer are all of no interest. There are no parliamentary-legislative mechanisms influencing the decisions of the Army elite. The last word still belongs to those same generals....

Armed Forces' Problems, Developments Examined

PM1509161492 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 12 Sep 92 p A9

[Michael Winiarski report: "Russian Army Close to Chaos"]

[Text] Moscow—The uniforms are the same as before, but they are probably the only things that are still the same in the once so proud Soviet Army. A year ago they led the world's biggest war machine. Now many Russian officers are paralyzed by the fear that the Army is so weak that the country is wide open to foreign intervention.

Many people are talking today about the imminent collapse of the Russian Army, the Red Army's successor. A little over a year after the fiasco of the August coup, when the internal divisions in the military were revealed, the Army's combat forces are beginning to approach rock bottom.

This gloomy—or, if you like, encouraging—picture of Russia's combat forces emerged after a number of conversations in Moscow which DAGENS NYHETER has had with experienced observers of the Soviet defense forces.

However, the Army's authority in society is thought to be the same as before the coup. The corps of officers has gotten over the "coup complex," in the knowledge that despite everything the Army is the strongest uniting force in Russia.

On one point the picture is not entirely black: Nuclear arms and in particular strategic forces (bombers and missiles) are thought to be under control and in good condition.

The sorry state of the conventional forces is generally admitted, albeit reluctantly, in official circles. The Russian general staff, which was created this spring as a result of the gradual decline of the joint CIS command, has several times had to admit that Russia's military capacity has shrunk considerably.

The number two in the Russian military hierarchy, Colonel General Mikhail Koslenikov, the deputy chief of general staff, recently outlined a frightening scenario, according to which the fragmented Soviet Union threatens to become a new Yugoslavia, torn apart by ethnic conflicts.

This would, Kolesnikov said, bring with it the risk that the West would intervene with "peacekeeping" troops using the excuse of maintaining control over the post-Soviet doomsday weapons.

This fear, which is so shameful for Russian self-esteem, is shared by significant sections of Russia's intelligentsia.

There have been panic reactions. According to one well-informed source, Russian spy chief Yevgeniy Primakov recently called for a plan for how the intelligence service should save important archives if Moscow is invaded.

Several factors have contributed to and made the already precarious situation worse.

First and foremost, there is the loss of the Russian empire's innermost buffer zone, which means that most of the military capacity in Belarus and Ukraine has gone to the new independent states. It is also likely that forward positions in the defense of Russian airspace in the Baltic region will also disappear shortly.

At the same time troops in the former satellite states in Eastern Europe have either begun or already completed their retreat.

The considerable forces remaining in eastern Germany are in reality "locked" and cannot be used at home. A military analyst has told DAGENS NYHETER that they can hardly be used operationally: The troops are not highly mobile and once they have left Germany they will not readily receive the host country's permission to return.

In concrete terms this could mean that if Romania were to make a military thrust in Moldova Moscow would hardly be able to assist the 14th Army which is stationed there. Ukraine is in the way and could close its airspace. Kiev could also veto the use of the Black Sea Fleet.

The disappearance of the peripheral republics has also meant problems for the Army in Russia's heartland. Many units resemble Swiss cheeses because of all the holes there are after non-Russians simply went back to their home countries in the Caucasus or Central Asia.

The Armed Forces are not even able to draft all Russians who are eligible for military service. According to reports in Russian newspapers in July, Moscow's draft office granted half of those responding to the draft a postponement for health reasons.

Of the conventional forces it is chiefly a number of elite units that are maintaining high standards. It has also been possible to deploy these units with varying degrees of success in areas of conflict in the south. In August Moscow sent a parachute regiment to Abkhazia to come to the aid of Russians who find themselves in the fighting zone.

In the early summer, part of the feared Dzherzhinskiy division—which was previously under the control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs—was sent to South Ossetia in Georgia to separate the warring factions.

It had been the intention that within a few years Russia's Armed Forces should be reduced from the Soviet era's 4.5 million men to 1.5 million men. But the intention was hardly that the reduction should take place in such an uncontrolled manner. Officers are worried about the pace of the reductions.

Statements from politicians and officers indicate relatively widespread agreement that Russia should create cheaper and more compact armed forces that are more flexible and possibly more professional.

But there is uncertainty about what the Army should be used for. The officer corps has lost its way politically. Many have switched ideology from communism to nationalism without any apparent difficulty. But not all.

A new military doctrine is still only at the discussion stage. First the leadership in Moscow must reach agreement on what the future threats to Russia might be in a totally transformed world. On the western front the empire has shrunk to less than it was before the age of Catherine the Great in the 1700's.

Yeltsin has said repeatedly that Russia will never go back to an imperialist policy. But greater Slav notions of a special mission for Russia are rife among leading politicians.

A document signed by the chairman of the Russian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, and quoted in IZVESTIYA, stated the following:

"As an internationally-recognized heir to the USSR, the Russian Federation should in its foreign policy be guided by the doctrine that the entire geopolitical region that embraces the former Soviet Union is a sphere that affects Russia's vital interests (after the model of the Monroe Doctrine in Latin America).

"Russia should also strive to win from the international community an understanding and acceptance of of its special interests in this sphere, and to win recognition for Russia's role as guarantor of political and military stability on the territory of the whole of the former USSR."

Even if this is not official policy in Moscow, Ambartsumov's words ought to sound ominous in Minsk, Kiev, and other CIS capitals.

To say nothing of Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius.

Fewer and fewer people are reckoning with the CIS's common defenses. All republics are setting up their own armies and the coordination that is deemed necessary is taking place on a bilateral basis. At the Yalta meeting on 3 August Russia's Yeltsin and Ukraine's Kravchuk completely ignored all CIS agreements on joint control of strategic forces and decided between themselves to divide the Black Sea Fleet between the two states.

CIS supreme commander Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and his staff have symbolically enough been relegated to a godforsaken camp in Moscow where the now defunct Warsaw Pact's headquarters were situated.

Yeltsin has carried out an energetic purge of the Russian defense leadership. The trend is clear: Growing numbers of the defenders of democracy from the days of the coup have lost their jobs. One such example is the man who led the defense of the White House, General Konstantin Kobets. He was dismissed from the post of Yeltsin's military adviser and is now without employment.

At the same time half a dozen generals who are well known for their conservative views have been given top posts.

"Those who are now making a career for themselves are in principle the men who would have stormed the White House," a military commentator told DAGENS NYHETER.

In Moscow there is growing talk of the existence of an aggressive "Afghan mafia." For the majority of those promoted have one thing in common: They are Afghanistan veterans.

The new deputy defense minister, Boris Gromov, was the last Soviet commander in Kabul and was later deputy to Internal Affairs Minister Boris Pugo, the putschist who committed suicide.

The new chief of the general staff, Viktor Dubynin, the new deputy defense minister, Valeriy Mironov, the tough chief of the 14th Army in Moldova, Aleksandr Lebedev, and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev himself—they were all welded together during the bloody war in Afghanistan.

The fact that Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy is also an "Afghan" (he was a combat pilot and was shot down by the guerrillas) is not thought to be of great significance.

Instead, the man who today appears to be the most influential is Russia's eminence grise, Yuriy Skokov, the secretary of Yeltsin's Security Council.

Skokov is a representative of the powerful military-industrial complex. He has a key role: He heads the committee that appoints all the top officers in Russia. The committee is considered to have the same function the Central Committee's Military Department had when the Communist Party dictated everything.

Merchant Navy Chief on Future of Fleet

OW1609010192 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Interview by Aleksandr Lutskiy with Genadiy Davidovich (surname not given), director of the Department of the Merchant Fleet of Russia, at the director's office; from the "Utro" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] What is the present condition and the future of the Russian merchant fleet? Our special correspondent, Aleksandr Lutskiy gets the first hand information as he discusses this with the director of the Department of the Merchant Fleet of Russia.

[Begin recording] [Lutskiy] It has become common knowledge that the Department of the Merchant Fleet has approached the government and the Russian parliament with a number of initiatives for the revival of the Russian merchant fleet. What potential does the Russian merchant fleet possess since Russia obtained its' sovereignty?

[Director] Today, the Russian merchant fleet, or to be more precise the shipping enterprises of the industry, have 857 transport vessels with a collective dead weight, or carrying capacity, of 11 million tonnes. From the former Ministry of the Merchant Fleet, Russia was left with 50 percent of the fleet, and 50 percent of the port cargo loading capacity. Out of 70 ports, 39 ports remained in Russia, of which 10 are in the Arctic, which do not operate all year round. The Russian fleet has a carrying capacity deficit for its own needs, somewhere in the order of 25 to 30 percent. This 25 to 30 percent has occurred because the volume of exports and imports has fallen, regrettably.

[Lutskiy] Why has the volume dropped?

[Director] The volume of production in the whole country has fallen, and correspondingly this is reflected in the transportation of sea freight. If we speak about what was left as an inheritance from the former Russian fleet, I must stress that, regrettably, the fleet in respect to age is also old. In the West, ships operate for longer than 10 years, somewhere in the region of 15 to 20 years, but there they either quickly change the aging fleet—I have in view ships in the 10th year or over bracket—or it is modernized. That is what we are trying to do. If our shipping enterprises just wrote off all the old ships, then today Russia would be left with approximately 50 percent of what we now have.

You could ask me the other question—why does Russia need a fleet? One could charter and carry these export and import cargoes in foreign vessels. It is possible, but then Russia, instead of supporting a budding transport market which would ensure the delivery of export or import cargo, would give all this away to foreign ship owners. And finally when it happens that Russia no longer has a fleet, then these expenditures, these supplementary expenditures for the country, according to our estimates will constitute 3.5 to 4 billion rubles [corrects himself] dollars annually.

[Lutskiy] What are your relations like with the shipping companies?

[Director] I must stress that the events that occurred at the end of 1991 have not severed relations between shipping enterprises and the maritime transport department. Our managers are working in full contact with their colleagues in the maritime transport enterprises of the Baltics, the Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.

[Lutskiy] What acute problems does your industry face?

[Director] That is, undoubtedly, fleet renewal. I am not even speaking about expansion. Understanding the difficulties of the country, we came forward with our proposals to preserve the existing cargo carrying capacity potential of the fleet, with a view toward renewing it with newer, modern and more economical vessels. The fleet must be more modern, like those of the leading sea powers. The example is obvious to our seamen and to myself as well. I rose to the directorship of the department of maritime transport from a sailor, and I know about the problems seamen are talking about today firsthand. That is why I consider the document you are talking about, the president's edict, which is still being worked on concerning the rebirth of the Russian fleet, is urgently needed, so that maritime transport enterprises can, through self-funding, develop and renew the fleet, expand and modernize the ports and ship repair capabilities, as well as other infrastructures.

[Lutskiy] You mentioned self-funding. How is privatization progressing, is it progressing?

[Director] When it was discussed, I contended that in this country, I mean Russia, the privatization of maritime enterprises must happen last. Having privatized the enterprises, there would be nothing we could do to force ship owners to sail to the Arctic regions, or to sail to Magadan or Kamchatka during winter. This is because work there is more difficult and people receive less pay in comparison to those sailing in the tropics, or to those sailing normally abroad.

Today, in controlling the state's internal transportation tariffs, to reach some kind of an agreement in this respect through a system of state orders is simply impossible. The ship owner will find any way possible to avoid transportation of goods necessary for the national economy, and do the most profitable thing for his collective. I will give you a small example: When we were trying to prove all these things to the government of the Union, we were given a direct order to surrender under lease our basic fund of ships to the Baltic Shipping Company. Today, the Baltic Shipping Company, using our basic shipping fund, purchased from [changes thought] has made acquisitions from the country's budget, but is working for itself and does practically nothing for the country.

[Lutskiy] It is not a secret that the social situation of the worker in the various branches of the national economy is quite unstable and unreliable, and that there are a lot of tensions and problems: What is your department doing for personnel?

[Director] In comparison to last year, the wages of sailors, dockers, and workers in our industrial enterprises—we have a number of ship repair plants—have increased ten- to twelve-fold. I emphasize again, that the increases in wages were made possible thanks to the efficiency of some of the enterprises. You know that the state would not have been able to provide those means.

Second, literally at the end of last month we were able to resolve a problem that really was artificially created. The seamen were indignant that unsubstantiated high customs duties were introduced on items they were bringing back from abroad, specifically, automobiles. This issue was settled, and seamen have the right to bring in one automobile per trip. Speaking of housing construction, kindergartens, and the like, many maritime transport enterprises are ahead of the schedules set down for 1992. I must commend the excellent work of the Northern Shipping Company in this regard. I want to draw your attention to the fact that Russian maritime transport carries out 80 percent of its work abroad, that is foreign cargo transportation, and only 20 percent, by volume and freight turnover, on internal coastal transportation.

On the subject of passenger transport, this constitutes no more than 2 percent of the total volume of all Russian maritime transport work. I must stress that as far as these increases on ticket prices are concerned, which today somehow annoys and upsets our society, the department of maritime transport has made a decision to only increase fares in line with minimal increases in wages taking into account that, on the whole, the transport of passengers for coastal trips is unprofitable. That is, if today the minimum wage of R900 is increased to R1,500, that means the price will go up 1.5 times.

[Lutskiy] Well, thank you Gennadiy Davidovich, and let us hope that the viewers are clearer on the situation in your industry, and taking this opportunity I want to invite you back to our program on another occasion.

[Director] Thank you very much, I would be delighted to answer all the viewers' questions that may arise. [end recording]

Prosecutor Rejects Servicemen's Death Claims

PM1409102592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Sep 92 p 1

[Letter from Colonel of Justice Anatoliy Korotkov, chief of department at the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office Main Administration for Overseeing the Execution of Laws in the Armed Forces: "Truth Marked 'Secret'"]

[Text] On 15 August PRAVDA published an interview with Lyubov Lymar, chairman of the "Soldiers' Mothers of Russia" movement, in which she raised the issue of servicemen's deaths in the Army. In particular she stated that "...the investigating bodies put all cases of death down to 'suicide,'" evidently implying that the investigators wish to draw a line there, close the cases, and put them in the archives.

In this connection, I report that in 1991 over 3,000 persons have been tried and convicted for committing crimes involving the death or maiming of servicemen. In 1992 the Military Prosecutor's Office completed investigations into 2,406 criminal cases involving servicemen being killed and injured. The majority (1,394 cases against 1,878 individuals) were forwarded to the court and the culprits were convicted. Moreover, 227 of those convicted were officials guilty of misapplying disciplinary practices and abusing their official positions, thus causing the death of their subordinates. Some 1,020 were guilty of breaking regulation rules concerning relations between servicemen. Some 600 representations were made to the command.

Unfortunately, the precise figures for servicemen who have died still remain secret in our country. This gives rise to rumors and unobjective information. For example, in the aforementioned interview it is said that within a year there have been "...40,000 zinc coffins." Where did these figures come from? Not only do they bear no relation to reality, but they actually exceed the true numbers of deaths at least 10 times over. They can give rise to nothing but fear of serving in the Armed Forces. Maybe this is precisely what the people disseminating them are trying to achieve.

Each criminal case concerning an investigation into the circumstances of servicemen's deaths is monitored. Investigators who allow red tape and a lack of objectivity into the investigation are disciplined.

Nuclear Issues

Ministers Inspect Nuclear Test Site

LD1609091292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—A mixed commission led by the Russian defence minister, Army General Pavel Grachev, and the Russian nuclear power engineering minister, Professor Viktor Mikhailov, was flown to the Novaya Zemlya nuclear testing site to study on the spot the state and potential of the structures and problems facing the nuclear testing site personnel.

On Tuesday, the Russian Navy's Commander-in-Chief Admiral Felix Gromov arrived on the spot as the facilities on Novaya Zemlya are under the jurisdiction of the Russian Navy.

Nuclear Waste Spilled at Bolshoy Kamen

OW1509144392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by V. Voronova; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] [Voronova] A black pillar standing at the entrance to the city of Bolshoy Kamen demonstrates that there are still people willing to protect the environment. [Video shows pillar with slogans calling for protection of environment]

However, we have just learned about an event that took place here about a month ago. Since then, not a single governmental press service, including the oblasts' press services, considered it necessary to inform the kray residents that a discharge of polluted water occurred on July 27 at the Zvezda factory which repairs ships and submarines, some of them nuclear. Two tonnes of the water spilled into the sea and on the ground because the tanker that was supposed to receive the water had simply moved away. [Video shows submarine with missile launch tubes visible] The asphalt was removed and the soil treated, but naturally, the water was just flushed away. I wondered around with a Geiger counter for two days, and the radiation was within norms. But then again, plenty of water flowed by in a month. Yuriy Shigan, the chief engineer of the enterprise, comments on this unattractive event in the kray's ecological life.

[Begin recording] [Shigan] The level of pollution in the bay does not exceed the maximum allowable pollution level. The reason for it is that the spilled [words indistinct] had a low radioactivity level.

[Voronova] Who carried out the measurements—your specialists, or the Navy's?

[Shigan] The measurements were carried out by our specialists.

[Voronova] Why only three hours after the event?

[Shigan] Because our first priority was to localize it.

[Voronova] It has been determined who was responsible, yes?

[Shigan] Of course.

[Voronova] Was this the first case since the beginning of this year?

[Shigan] Yes, it was.

[Voronova] Do you see it as an emergency incident?

[Shigan] No, this is not an emergency, this is an out-of-the-ordinary situation. There is a classification of extraordinary incidents, and this one definitely does not fall under that definition. Let me repeat: The waters spilled had very low levels of radioactivity. [end recording]

[Voronova] See? Nothing special, just a little radioactive water spilled.

The editorial staff of the local Vremya [mestnoye vremya] [as heard] has already raised the issue of the utilization of nuclear submarines and dangerous waste in general. Large sums are probably needed to properly bury nuclear reactors and to do a better snow job. There is probably a state project for this, but when such an out-of-the-ordinary situation does happen, it would be more decent to get ahead of rumors and fabrications and take care of the well-being of this city's people—who are not particularly happy as it is—and provide timely and precise information on what is going on.

By the way, I failed to find out what course this ship will take upon leaving the Zvezda factory wharf. [Video shows wharf, poster reading "radiation condition" [radiatsionnaya obstanovka], docked ship] Its tanks contain water, and not just ordinary water at that. Could it be heading to Askold Island?

Regional Affairs

Grachev Tours Smolensk Resettlement Areas

PM1509121592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Oliynik and Dorofey Getmanenko: "Smolensk for Army. Army for Smolensk. Troops Arriving from Abroad Will Be Greeted With Warmth and Care in Region of Russian Military Glory"]

[Text] There is probably no more important task for the Russian Federation Defense Ministry today than this—the systematic withdrawal of troops from foreign countries both near and far and their resettlement on new stations across the vastness of Russia. New approaches are needed to resolve this task of state scale and significance: It requires a pooling of efforts by military organs and oblasts and kray administrations to create favorable conditions to accommodate the troops. This includes drafting joint agreements—a kind of long-term program which specifically indicates the means and methods to ensure the construction of housing for officers' and ensigns' families and sociocultural and consumer projects.

These were the questions tackled by Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev when he visited Smolensk and a number of population centers in the oblast 10 September. On the basis of the Russian president's decree and government resolutions troops are arriving on the territory of Smolensk Oblast during 1992-1996 from the Western, Northern, and Northwestern Groups of Forces. Many units and commands have to be taken in, and the establishment of the Ground Forces Military Air Defense Academy, which opened recently in Smolensk, has to be completed. More than 5,000 apartments will be required for officers and ensigns. Taking into account the shortage of housing for the servicemen currently serving here, this figure will reach 6,724.

For the purpose of constructing housing and sociocultural and consumer projects in good time for the troops being withdrawn, the Smolensk Oblast administration and the Moscow Military District command have drawn up and signed a joint agreement. It was sealed with the signatures of Valeriy Fateyev, head of the oblast administration, and Colonel General Leontiy Kuznetsov, commander of Moscow Military District. Army General Pavel Grachev approved this joint decision, and in this way the Russian Federation Defense Ministry became a guarantor of the outlined program to receive and settle troops in Smolensk Oblast.

It has to be said that, in addition to the great expense of settling the troops, Smolensk Oblast will also acquire incontestable benefits. It is planned to commission six apartment blocks being erected in Smolensk by military construction organizations already by the end of this year. Development of an entire residential district—Zapadnyy—will begin in the city in 1993, with simultaneous provision of heating and water supply networks and construction of kindergartens, a school, stores...

In Vyazma, where helicopter crewmen and communications personnel will be located together with support units, foreign firms will next year start constructing a military camp with 1,000 apartments and sociocultural and consumer projects. In Yelnya, where antiaircraft gunners and motorized riflemen are arriving in accordance with the plan of the Defense Ministry Central Military Planning Agency, construction of a military camp with 1,500 apartments, including engineering support and aociocultural and consumer projects, will also begin.

We know how attentive Army General P. Grachev is when it comes to the fate of a particular officer, his family, or social protection for army and navy veterans. During his tour of Smolensk Oblast the defense minister considered it essential also to visit the Kazachiy farmstead, where a joint private farm is being run by four ex-servicemen—Captain First Rank Ilya Osipov, Col. Nikolay Yefimov, Lieutenant Col. Nikolay Bobylev, and Senior Ensign Vladimir Krichfalushiy, all of the reserve—with their families.

Capt. First Rank Osipov, reserve, told the minister about his farm in detail and told him what has been done over the past three months. Much has been done: The harvest

has been gathered on 180 hectares of allocated land, three ponds have been dug to raise fish, and a shed has been equipped for the young livestock—for steers. On the farm they also raise rabbits, geese, chickens... Of course, all this depends on daily hard work, just the way it used to be on active service in the army, as well as teamwork and a sense of purpose.

Of course, today's private farmers have plenty of problems. It is hard to find funds, there is a lack of equipment, a sharp increase in fuel prices is in the offing... The reserve officers told the defense minister about this without beating about the bush. Army General P. Grachev promised to help the novice farmers as far as possible with equipment and construction materials.

Kazachiy farmstead is a kind of bridgehead for private farms in Smolensk Oblast. But, to all appearances, it is a reliable bridgehead, with great prospects. In conversation with one of us Vladimir Krayev, director of Smolensk Oblast Agriculture Department and, incidentally, a retired lieutenant general, said that he is inviting to the oblast other officers who are being transferred to the reserve. There will be enough land for all, and there would be a real desire to cultivate it.

...The Smolensk land has long been a refuge of the "homeland's military defenders," and it is now setting a good example on a supreme question—the accommodation and settlement of Russian Army troops returning from abroad.

Chechens Urge Fight Against Russian Colonialism

OW1509190092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament and government of the Chechen Republic announced that Chechens are being persecuted on the territory of the Caucasian republics. An appeal published by the "CHECHEN PRESS" agency to the leaders and people of Adygaya, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkariya, Karacheyevo-Cherkesiya, Northern Ossetia, and Georgia states that Chechen citizens have even been physically harmed.

The announcement contains an appeal to governments, Supreme Soviets, and people "to not allow their leaders to destroy the established Caucasian brotherhood, and to keep them from blindly following Russia's colonial course which will lead to the annihilation of the Caucasian people by their own doing."

Ministry Strengthens Tiraspol Commander's Office

LD1509154692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] From today, by order of the Russian Defense Ministry, the establishment of the Tiraspol Garrison commmander's office has been significantly increased. General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, stated that this strengthening was prompted by the need to combat armed criminals and the complexity of the crime situation.

MVD Troops To Block Dagestan Arms Traffic

PM1609110392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Report by O. Mamedova and Sh. Shekhaliyev in Dagestan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Mamedova] A task force of Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] Internal Troops has arrived in Dagestan. It comprises the Don special purpose division and the Camouflage Berets. The military have already been in the republic once this summer. During the state of emergency in Makhachkala and Kizilyurt they confiscated weapons from the population.

[Begin A. Vokulich, task force commander, recording] The Russian MVD troops in Dagestan are currently engaged in stopping the arms traffic from the republics of the Transcaucasus and the North Caucasus to Russia. They are doing their utmost to assist law enforcement organs in establishing order in this area where serious crime is rife. [end recording]

Chinese Officials Cooperate With St. Petersburg

LD1609022392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 14 TASS—The visit of the Chinese delegation of the National People's Congress Commission on Foreign Affairs to Russia serves the purpose to strengthen parliamentary ties and extend economic cooperation between China and Russia. Within the framework of this visit, made on the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, the guests spent two days in St. Petersburg.

At today's business meeting with deputies of the St. Petersburg city council, Zhang Ting, head of the delegation and member of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, noted that even a short acquaintance with the economic, scientific and cultural potential of the city on the Neva River gives an idea of its tremendous possibilities which it is necessary to use much better in bilateral contacts.

"The relations between our countries have been developing on a stable basis, they have favourable prospects for the further development of trade and economic

cooperation, especially along the lines of twin cities and friendly ties between regions. Russia occupies now the fourth place in the Chinese foreign trade turnover, more than one hundred joint ventures are in operation, though mostly in frontier areas. That is why the Chinese side attaches great importance to the partnership with St. Petersburg," Zhang Ting said.

Late in the evening the Chinese parliamentarians are leaving for Moscow.

International Affairs

Further on Kravchuk's Belgium Trip for EC Talks

Agreement on Closer Cooperation

LD1609015892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2003 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Valeriy Shashkov for TASS]

[Text] Brussels September 14 TASS—The European Community (EC) and Ukraine will establish closer relations taking into account their common political orientation and the intention to fully implement the final act of the Helsinki conference. An agreement to the effect was reached during an official visit of the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to the EC headquarters on Monday [14 September].

A communique, adopted as a result of the meeting of the Ukrainian president with the chairman of the EC Commission Jacques Delors, pointed out that the Ukrainian political course, aimed at getting closer to the EC, corresponds to the EC desire to establish broader frameworks for cooperation. Kravchuk and Delors signed a joint statement expressing the intention to transfer the relations between the EC and Ukraine on a permanent legal basis.

To legalise these relations, it was considered necessary to exchange messages confirming the readiness of the sides to fulfill the commitments, stated in an agreement on trade and economic cooperation bewteen the EC and the former Soviet Union, signed in December, 1989.

In the future, the two sides are determined to develop their relations on a basis of a broader agreement on partnership and cooperation to be signed between the EC and Ukraine. Talks on the problem are expected to begin before the year's end, as soon as the EC Commission gets a mandate for such talks from the EC Council.

Kravchuk and Delors, addressing a news conference after the meeting, said that they were satisfied with its results. The Ukrainian president said that he regarded the visit as the beginning of a new stage in the relations between Ukraine and the EC.

At the same time Kravchuk noted that the development of mutually advantageous relations with Western Europe does not mean the disruption of former ties which existed in the former Soviet Union. Kravchuk said that Ukraine would develop and strengthen those ties, but on a new, equal basis, as equal partners and states.

In Brussels, Kravchuk met with the Belgian deputy prime minister, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes. They discussed issues connected with the development of bilateral relations. On the same day Kravchuk left Brussels for Kiev.

Minister Confirms Strategic Forces Obligations

OW1609103392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov reconfirmed the willingness of the republic to adhere to international obligations on conventional armed forces in Europe and reduction of strategic nuclear forces, he declared at his meeting with a member of the German Bundestag Willi Wimmer on Tuesday [16 September] in Kiev. The Minister stressed that Ukraine "is strictly pursuing the way to a non-nuclear status".

Delegation Ends U.S. Visit; Leader Comments

LD1509110692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Summary] The official delegation of Ukrainian parliamentarians, headed by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ivan Plyushch, returned to Kiev from the United States a few hours ago. Plyushch was interviewed by journalists at Borispol Airport.

On being asked if the American experience can be used in the Ukrainian parliament, Plyushch replied: "As far as our work was concerned, it was intense. Two weeks was really quite hard. You are asking what can be transferred; this is extremely complicated. If you understand me, it is necessary to transfer, but how to transfer? It is necessary that our society be at such a level of democratization that there is the kind of interest in work as we observed there."

Plyushch goes on to say: "The more we learn about their ways and methods of working, the more surprised we are. We are accustomed to not being able to manage without this going to extremes. Either there is dictatorship or there is anarchy. Either we don't listen to anything or anybody or we are given orders from above, and this is order. If everyone does as he pleases, then this is anarchy, and really everyone does not do as he pleases over there; they do as is envisioned in the law." Plyushch adds that in the United States "everything is regulated by legislation and economic levers."

On being asked whether Ukraine is accepted in the United States as an independent state, Plyushch explains that he has visited the United States twice. He says that during his first visit there, one and a half years ago, "they talked with us, you know, as we say, politely, but did not get down to specific issues." He adds: "This time we were received as statesmen. However, my first and main question to the speakers of both chambers [of Congress], to the majority and the minority, to ministers, and to an assistant on national security was: When will we be able to find our place in U.S. politics? It is like this: The countries of the former Union—Russia and others—are already adopting quite a number of decisions there. There aren't [incomplete sentence as heard] However, they have already said firmly that they are searching for

such ways of working. "We have agreed on many issues, in particular with Defense Secretary Cheney. We have agreed, as they are very interested in how ratification of the START treaty will proceed in Ukraine. I said that ideas in Ukraine vary. Many political forces want to accuse the president of being the first to lose everything, or that we are running on ahead, and so on. However, this does not mean that it will be like that. We said that Ukraine should be an equal partner in this process of reducing nuclear arms, and that if Ukraine finds itself a place in the control mechanism, then we will ratify. If not, they said that they are working on this, that is, we are talking about a separate treaty between the United States and Ukraine as nuclear states."

On being asked about the likelihood of foreign investment in Ukraine, Plyushch answers that "there are political forces, which for some reason continually shape the idea among business circles of the United States that reforms have not been firmly decided on in Ukraine, that in Ukraine they are still waiting on whether to introduce them or not. So I was surprised. For whom is this beneficial? How can this be possible? When Russia and Ukraine are being compared, I say to them: I would be very pleased if reforms in Russia or Belarus went quicker. Then it would be easier for us. However, I do not want it to be like a race to the finishing line, you understand. It is not important how you run, but we are now talking about this.

"These will be our ways of entering into this market. These will be Ukrainian ways, and none of these Harvard Universities, Indiana Universities of the world—everybody is now trying to lecture us. I think that we have changed their opinion to a certain extent, and asserted that we cannot link investments with Lanovyy. We have already gone over this. Well, these investments with Lanovyy—it seems that whether it is Fokin or Lanovyy or Plyushch or Kravchuk or whoever— what difference does it make? We need entrepreneurs to get down to work. When these people get down to work, when we unite American capital with our people, our land, our technologies, with their help, then there will be business, then everything will get going, and anyway, we have gone over all this already. So this was an important element of the work."

Kiev Intends To Transform CIS Navy Colleges

OW1609104192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian deputy Defense Minister Lieutenant General Anatoliy Lopata and the chief of the department of military education Major General Yuriy Prokofev discussed an issue on transformation of the higher navy colleges in Sevastopol (Crimea) in a military institute belonging to the Ukrainian Navy at a press conference on September 15. The generals made journalists acquainted with a plan for reorganization of military colleges stressing that formation of a new military institute is based "on a precise legal basis".

The leadership of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry began conflicting [as received] trying to solve issues on these colleges. The Minsk agreements envisage inclusion of these colleges in the composition of the strategic CIS forces.

National Affairs

Miners Send 'Ultimatum' to President, Parliament

MK1609094492 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 92 p 3

[NEGA column report: "Ukraine"]

[Text] The council of representatives of the Independent Trade Union of Donetsk Mineworkers has delivered an ultimatum to the president and Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. The miners are demanding that the president take charge of all economic reforms in Ukraine and assume personal responsibility for their implementation.

Among the political demands are the move to a federative structure for Ukraine; the enshrinement of federalist principles in the Constitution; and the reorganization of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium, which currently has no Donbass representatives.

In the event of the ultimatum's rejection, the council of the Independent Trade Union of Mineworkers envisages retaliatory action.

Supreme Soviet Rejects Rules Amendment

OW1509190192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputies to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, whose session opened Tuesday [15 September] in Kiev, rejected an amendment to the republic's constitution on the incompatibility of operations in the legislative and executive organs of power and did not consent to changes in the parliamentary rules on the determination of a quorum in order to pass a resolution.

Had the amendment been accepted, it would have led to the early resignations of more than 20 deputies from the current Supreme Soviet. Several deputies viewed the amendment as an attempt to ruin the work of parliament and to suspend its powers early.

The amendment to parliamentary rules proposed that a resolution would be passed only by consent of ⅔ of the deputies whose powers are recognized, but no less than 226 deputies. The Ukrainian Parliament currently has 450 deputies.

Picketers, Militiamen Engage in 'Serious Clash'

OW1509185892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A serious clash occurred Tuesday [16 September] between a group of citizens and militiamen on near a control check-point near the town of Katerinovka (a suburb of Kiev). [sentence as received]

A column of buses carrying deputies from the Lvov and Ternopol districts—some 400 people—was on route to take part in picketing the Ukrainian parliament building where the fall session has begun. By an order of city authorities forbidding the entrance into Kiev of picketers on inter-city busses, the column was stopped.

Refusing to obey the militia's orders not to use public transport, the column broke through the barriers set in its path and tried to enter the city. After a brief clash with the militia, the crowd of picketers made their way to the city's center with their banners.

According to the republic's Interior Ministry, canisters containing tear gas were used on some Berkut (Ukrainian OMON [special purpose militia detachment]) troops. Medical help arrived on the scene for the troops. None of the picketers arriving from western Ukraine were detained. Material evidence from the incident has been passed on to the General Prosecutor's Office.

Cabinet of Ministers Issues New Appointments

AU1509153392 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 4 Sep 92 p 2

["Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers appointments"—URYADOVYY KURYER headline]

[Text] Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the following appointments:

Vice Prime Minister Slyepichev, Oleh Ivanovych, has been appointed as member of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Commission for Questions of Coordination, Reception, Transportation, Guarding, and Distribution of the Humanitarian Assistance that is arriving from foreign countries.

x x x

Chernysh, Volodymyr Mykolayovych, has been appointed as Ukraine's deputy justice minister and relieved of duties as Ukraine's deputy justice minister—chief of the personnel department.

x x x

Kopchynskyy, Heorhiy Oleksiyovych, has been appointed as first deputy; Demyanenko, Anatoliy Ivanovych, and Pashnytska, Yaryna Petrivna, as deputy chairmen of Ukraine's State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Security.

x x x

Karasyk, Yuriy Mykhaylovych, has been appointed as Ukraine's first deputy agriculture and foodstuffs minister and relieved of duties as deputy minister at this ministry.

Hrevtsov, Vyacheslav Dmytrovych, has been appointed as Ukraine's deputy agriculture and foodstuffs minister.

x x x

Kolesnyk, Mykola Panasovych, has been dismissed from his post as chairman of the Council for Questions of Religions at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers in connection with his retirement to pension.

Zinchenko, Arsen Leonidovych, has been appointed as chairman of the Council for Questions of Religions at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers and relieved of duties as first deputy chairman of this council.

x x x

Pyetukhov, Ihor Pavlovych, has been relieved of duties as adviser for foreign economic ties at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

x x x

Melnyk, Borys Pavlovych, has been appointed as Ukraine's deputy economics minister and Nechayev, Yuriy Vasylyovych, relieved of these duties of his own will.

x x x

Dotsenko, Yuriy Pavlovych, has been appointed as deputy chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for Questions of Science and Technology.

x x x

Semenyuk, Volodymyr Kalenykovych, has been appointed as first deputy chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for bread products.

x x x

Zinchenko, Lyudmyla Ivanivna, has been appointed as deputy chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for Foodstuffs Industry.

Fokin on 'Payment Tracking System'

PM1609093992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 92 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Vitold Fokin by O. Musafirova under the "First Persons" rubric; place and date not given: "Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin: I Did Not Come to Moscow as a Suppliant"]

[Text] [Fokin] Ukraine did not play the role of a suppliant at the talks. We proposed a solution to the hopeless, stalemate situation in which both Ukrainian

and Russian enterprises have ended up thanks to adventurist acts by the Central Bank of Russia's former leadership, by which I mean Matyukhin and his entourage. I think it is an indisputable fact that all this will, at some time, provide grounds for a serious judicial investigation, because it is not just mistakes—it is a very carefully considered act.

It all began with the unilateral decision, which was not coordinated with anyone, to change the existing payment tracking system. The telegraphic channel was replaced by the postal channel. Financiers claim that this is justified because the telegraphic channel would have been very costly. However, all this was built on a one-channel scheme via cash settlement centers and not via the system that had been set up, and only via Moscow and Kiev, and then Mr. Matyukhin issued a directive: Do not accept payment instructions from Ukraine. Dozens of sacks stuffed full of payment slips had accumulated in the national bank's transaction halls before 20 July. While we were plowing our way through piles of payment documents, all the other CIS states were calmly using postal channels, and I know for a fact that they had no problems. For instance, all settlements with Belarus are clearing in two days. The discriminatory measures affected only Ukraine. However, now the question has taken on a new dimension. I myself talked with the bank employees who are going blind after 12 hours of sorting out these sacks, and they are besieged by messengers from enterprises: Give us money, help to get things moving.... The whole situation stinks, because an ideal environment for bribes has developed: In order to push a document through, up to 10 percent of the sum mentioned in the payment slip is being paid. It is inconceivable.

The result is that Ukraine's enterprises are idle. My desk is piled high with cables. For example, "Donetskugol" is unable to pay for either wood or equipment, although it has several billion rubles in its accounts. Actually, the cables forced me to have an immediate meeting with the head of the Russian Government. I called Yegor Timurovich Gaydar and said that the question cannot be put off. He reacted with understanding to my proposal, and generally I and Gaydar have formed good relations. We also had a meeting with Gerashchenko, a professional with a capital "P." What emerged? I do not have the moral right to criticize the Russian Government's action. However, it seems to me that that is where the blows against production are coming from. In principle, I regard the theory of bankruptcy and the philosophy of the destruction of the weak as correct. However, forced, artificial bankruptcy, when the one being ruined is not somebody who works badly but somebody who produces and delivers products on time and does not receive the resources for survival in return for them, is nonsense!

Our Ukrainian pseudodemocrats frequently tell me: "You are copying Moscow!" In what way? We have carried out the index-linking of agricultural products—otherwise 90 percent of farms would be ruined. We have index-linked fixed and circulating capital somewhat belatedly, it is true. However, in Russia 700 billion in credit resources was doled out to Mr. Gerashchenko and he was told: "That is all, this is the Procrustean bed, not a step further!" It turned out that they have not been paying wages to labor collectives for months as a result of a tough restriction on credit resources. However, who needs an indicator of "postponed" inflation? Billions still have to be given to the workers. Otherwise we will not make the transition to the market but will simply destroy the producer of material assets.

That is why, although it is not pleasant to recall it, I do not know what to make of the cable signed by Gerashchenko: "....In order to make settlements between the named states and the Russian Commercial Bank, these states' commercial banks are allowed to open correspondent ruble accounts in order to credit therein the proceeds from the sale of goods in the Russian Federation." Again: ".....All Russian banks have the right to open the said correspondent accounts. Prior to a special ordinance, the opening of similar accounts by Russian commercial banks in CIS states' banks is not permitted." A clearly discriminatory measure against Ukraine. However, nonetheless, despite the very complex start of the talks, we are satisfied with their result. Material has been prepared which will enable us to resume the circulation of the blood in the financial mechanism of Ukraine and Russia. Forgive me, but I cannot go into more detail—such is the mutual understanding.

[Musafirova] The next Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session is opening. Both the deputies and the rally participants are united on one question: The government's resignation is inevitable and essential. Do you intend to defend yourself?

[Fokin] I am fulfilling my civic duty. No spontaneous actions, wherever they originate, will budge me from my position.

Second. Believe me, this opinion about the government is being formed only in Kiev—especially after the stratification of democratic forces. The extreme right and left wings have held out their hands to each other and have united to achieve one goal. It is a different story in the provinces.

We are not afraid of these actions; they do not reflect the people's true opinion. We have a group here that thinks up everything absurd and insulting it can about Fokin and his government. I cannot call it anything but an outright betrayal of the people because there are no structures that could currently work better than the present cabinet of ministers.

Banks Raise Credit Rates By Up to Four Times

LD1509123592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The overwhelming majority of banks in Ukraine have recently raised their credit rates by two and a half to four times. It is now necessary for enterprises and firms

of the republic to pay 30-60 percent for credits received. For example, the West Ukrainian Commercial Bank takes 40-50 percent, the Narodnyy Bank in Kiev takes 60 percent, Vidrodzhennya Bank takes 30-35 percent. The raising of credit rates, which above all is connected with the deficit of monetary resources in banks, has a significant influence on price increases for goods.

Alarming Spread of Illegal Weapons Noted

AU1609105092 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 3 Sep 92 p 2

[Article by Oleh Strekal: "The People's Army Is Arming the People"; first paragraph published within box]

[Text] **Over the last one and one-half years, 38,000 items of various weaponry have been confiscated in Ukraine. These weapons would suffice to arm several divisions.**

Competent organs believe that just 80 percent of the stolen lethal devices that got into the hands of bandits, leaders, and common citizens taking care of their own self-defense have been confiscated.

The weapons arrive from outside of the republic or are stolen from militiamen and self-employed guards. The Army is another ample source. The Army, with poor discipline and unsatisfactory conditions for guarding the arsenals. The Army in which some servicemen actively trade on the black market.

The quantity of stolen and lost weapons and munitions has sharply increased and the number of attacks on guards and ammunition dumps for the purpose of seizing submachine guns and explosives has grown. This was stated by Colonel Oleksandr Skypalskyy, chief of Ukraine's Security Service military counterintelligence administration.

So far, a considerable proportion of stolen arms is eventually recovered. All machine guns, snipers' rifles, almost all pistols, and more than one-half of the submachine guns have been found. Grenades have been confiscated in quantities four times greater than have disappeared from the ammunition dumps—great quantities of explosives get into Ukraine's territory from the Dniester Region.

The military counterintelligence points out that the people who are in charge of guarding and maintaining weapons are, in most cases, those who try to get hold of them. For example, all crimes of this type in the Black Sea Fleet have been perpetrated by guards and also by warrant officers and officers in weapons services.

In Dnipropetrivsk, Captain Ye., a deputy chief of the service of motorized infantry division, tried to sell 31 boxes (620 units) of grenades. The culprit and his accomplices have been arrested. In one of the units of the former Odessa Military District, servicemen stole 75 kilograms of TNT and several hundred detonators in order to exchange them for narcotics. The case has been transferred to the military Procurator's office.

The officers of special services are also alarmed by the fact that customers from hotspots in the CIS are more and more often arriving in Ukraine. In Vasylkiv (Kiev Oblast), two citizens of Chechnya were detained. They found themselves, accidentally as they allege, in the vicinity of a military airfield. In Kharkiv, a "guest" from Armenia was looking for an opportunity to purchase firearms. In Konotop (Suny Oblast), citizen Du. from Baku was arrested. Claiming to be a representative of Azerbaijan's National Front, he was about to buy submachine guns and cartridges for them. Another go-between held negotiations on purchasing air-to-surface missiles.

Nor do commercial organizations miss an opportunity to get rich. There are cases where small enterprises and firms have tried to organize the transit of large batches of weapons through Ukraine. Officials of defense plants occasionally get attractive proposals to sell secret products that are manufactured exclusively at the Defense Ministry's orders.

Operational workers of the military counterintelligence possess information to the effect that members of Ukrainian paramilitary patriotic formations study systems of guarding weapons at military facilities and seek contacts with those soldiers and officers who are responsible for guarding weapons.

All of this undermines the security of Ukraine's citizens. The point is that law-enforcement organs reveal increasingly large numbers of grave crimes, robberies, and attacks that involve the use of firearms.

Moreover, the lack of control over considerable quantities of illegal weapons leads to an intensification of the threat of internal terrorism. The republic has been seized with a wave of attacks against representatives of the authorities and administration, threats to high-ranking officials, people's deputies, and even the president. In most cases, investigation of these crimes reveals strictly criminal or social reasons behind the violence. However, there is also a chance that political violence may emerge. I mean the gradual arming of various national-patriotic paramilitary groupings and those that are created "to protect Russian-speaking minorities."

Quick-Response Militia Subunit Created

AU1509150292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] A quick-response militia subunit called Berkut [Royal Eagle] has been created at the internal affairs administration in Chernivtsi Oblast. Characteristic features of its work include a high level of combat and physical training, mobility, and the ability to act in extreme situations.

The soldiers of Berkut are equipped with special weapons and means of individual defense. They are constantly improving their skills in using self-defense methods and detaining (?criminals).

Resolution on Payment of Military Salaries

AU1509163392 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 4 Sep 92 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Their Service Involves Risk and Is Difficult"]

[Text] Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 456 issued on 10 August 1992 has established, starting from 17 March 1992, the size of salaries for servicemen in the Armed Forces, Border Troops, National Guard, troops of internal and escort guard, regular and command personnel of organs of internal affairs whose services are enlisted in the zone of special regime near Ukraine's state border with the Republic of Moldova.

In particular, the payment of salaries in accordance with official positions and military ranks will be made at the rate of 1.5, and the existing per diem norms and factual expenses for accommodation in hotels will be increased by 30 percent. Besides, after every three months of being on commission in the special regime zone, the servicemen will receive leaves for 15 calendar days. The counting of the duration of service will be done on preferential terms—one month of service will be recorded as one and one-half years.

Ministry Begins Oath-Taking at Military Academy

OW1509193792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet press center reports that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry permitted officers and cadets of the Nakhimov Sevastopol Military-Naval Academy to take oaths on their loyalty to Ukraine beginning September 15. On orders from Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Lieutenant General Anatoliy Lopata, an advisory point was opened at the academy in order to clarify "the need to take Ukrainian oaths" to officers. However, the report stated that so far no one has expressed the desire to do so. The official taking of oaths in the academy is scheduled for September 26.

The press center pointed out that Ukraine's military department proposed that officers refusing to retake their oaths sign an "agreement on service"—the legal status of which is not defined in any of the documents of Ukraine's Defense Ministry or Supreme Soviet. Similar changes are being made in the other Sevastopol academy which prepares general and nuclear specialists for the Black Sea Fleet, reported the press center.

Belarus

Dry Summer Produces Unexpected Harvest Bonus

PM1609094392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 92 First Edition p 6

[Correspondent Aleksey Yeroshenko report under the "Harvest Work" rubric: "Drought, the Farmer's Helpmate?"]

[Text] At the start of the year Belarus' grain farmers took the risk of altering the traditional land structure by reducing the land sown to feed, which had always proved reliable, in favor of land sown to grain. However, a drought struck. It looked as if their gamble would fail—at least 2 million tonnes of the harvest melted away before their eyes, and this is almost one-fourth of what they swore to gather in. However, things are not as bad as they looked!

The complete lack of rain forced them to get moving. A lower level of power was available per worker than last year, yet harvest timetables had been cut by one-half. A week before the end of August the fields were shaved bare. The gross grain harvest came to 7.5 million tonnes, which is over a million tonnes more than last year's total and half a million tonnes more than was planned this year.

The average yield per hectare is 30.8 quintals. Specialists are noting the high quality of the grain. In their opinion, losses will amount to no more than 5 percent after processing (last year "shrinkage" and "spillage" were three times greater).

Grain sales to the state are actually going better than last year. Over 70 percent of the planned volume of grain resources has already been procured—a sensible combination of the rudiments of a market economy and strong government pressure have played their part here. Having abolished the state order, the government obliged all farmers to deliver 7.7 kg of grain per rated hectare of intensively farmed agricultural land. The price of grain depends on the culture and type—between 10,000 and 15,000 rubles [R] per tonne. Any additional grain that is received will be paid for with a 50-percent markup. However, a fine of double the value of their arrears lies in wait for farmers who do not stick to the mandatory minimum sales volume. This is tough but fair, because spending their more-than-modest reserves of foreign currency on something they can produce themselves is an inconceivable luxury for the Belarusians.

This is the reason why two battalions of volunteers and 2,000 vehicles, 800 of them allocated by the Defense Ministry, have been thrown into Kazakhstan's harvest effort. All the work involved in recruiting and equipping people and providing technical and living facilities—including the dispatch of 18 trains—took literally a week to implement. A "slice" of Kazakhstan's loaf will cost Belarus R108 million, but it will also receive the substantial quantity of 2 million tonnes of grain. Which is precisely the amount required to successfully complete the state's Grain Program.

700 Million Rubles To Be Spent on Baltic Border

OW1509214692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following iteam transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus will spend about 700 million roubles on establishing a border with Latvia and Lithuania, the Belarusian premier's adviser in border issues and chief of the government's frontier troops department Major-General Yevgeniy Bocharov told IF [INTERFAX] in an exclusive interview. He said that the 600-kilometre border with the Baltic republics will be guarded by two regiments of about 2,500 men, based in the cities of Smorgon and Novopolotsk.

IF Note: According to Belarusian sources, Russia, which has a border of about the same length with the Baltic republics (600 kilometers) will have it guarded by 4 border-guard units (8,000 border-guards). This year, the Russian government has allocated 5 billion roubles to the maintenance of its borders with the Baltic states, and is planning to reserve about the same some for the next year.

Belarus, said Bocharov, will not build any sophisticated facilities or set up any super-modern equipment on this border. So, whereas Russia will spend 8,500 roubles on the maintenance of one kilometer of the border with the Baltic republics (which is an estimate of local experts—IF), the expenses of Belarus will amount to 2,700 roubles. Whereas one kilometer of the Russian-Baltic border will be guarded by 15-16 Russian frontier guards, the same length of the Belarusian-Baltic border will be guarded by 4 men. General Bocharov said that according to his sources, the Lithuanian government has allocated 1 billion roubles to the establishment of the border with Belarus.

Bocharov also noted that he doubted Russia's promise to extend 500 million roubles to Belarus for strengthening its border with the Baltic states. "So, we do not count on this sum very much," he remarked.

The Ukrainian government proposed that the delimitation and demarcation of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border be carried out, said Bocharov. Even if the Belarusian government accepts this proposal, the Belarusian-Ukrainian border will hardly be fitted with up-to-date equipment, he noted. "Most likely, the maintenance of this border will cost Belarus as much as the maintenance of the border with the Baltic states," he said. I have no information pointing to plans to establish a state border between Belarus and Russia, he said.

Lack of finances is the main problem hampering the development of the Belarusian frontier troops, he remarked. "We have received 260 million roubles to last till the end of the year. A few days ago, we spent the last million. The Defence Ministry should supply the frontier troops with equipment free of charge," said General Bocharov.

None of the about 700 people who have been detained this year during an attempt to cross the border illegally was either a spy or a saboteur, Bocharov noted. We should therefore review approaches to the protection of our borders, at least the borders with the former Union republics. We should not be trying to catch everyone attempting to cross the border, he said in conclusion.

Shaposhnikov, Shushkevich Discuss Military Matters

PM1509152992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Meeting at the Belarusian Parliament"]

[Text] At the invitation of republic Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, visited the Belarusian parliament. Stanislav Shushkevich and Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov discussed issues of mutual interest. There was a detailed discussion of questions concerning the reduction of Armed Forces and the withdrawal of Strategic Forces from the territory of Belarus.

Popular Front Requests Foreign Monitors

OW1509145092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soim (board) of the Belarusian Popular Front has made a statement stressing the need to invite foreign observers to monitor the planned nationwide referendum on confidence in the republic's parliament and government.

Popular Front leaders have already discussed the matter with members of some US and West European public organizations.

Moldova

'Special Situation' Expires in Dniester Region

LD1609112292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1043 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 16 Sep—This morning the special situation in the Dniester region was cancelled. It was introduced in March this year after the bloody clashes in Dubossary between Moldovan police forces, Dniester guard armed formations, and Cossacks. In the summer it was extended because of the constant worsening of the situation. The extended period ran out today. The situation in the region, with the introduction of peacekeeping forces, is normalizing. Therefore, there is no sense in extending the special situation further, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Dniester Supreme Soviet Chairman Grigoriy Marakutsa.

Dniester Parliament Forms Government

OW1509190392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Parliament of the self-governing Trans-Dniester Moldovan Republic (TMR), which was in session Tuesday [15 September] in Tiraspol, confirmed TMR President Igor Smirnov's proposed candidates for Security Minister and Interior Minister. These posts were filled by Colonel Vadim Shevtsov, who headed until now the Trans-Dniester security service, and Militia Major General Yuriy Ovsyannikov, former chief of the Moldovan Interior Ministry, respectively.

The appointment of Smirnov to the post of Defense Minister and Major General Shtephan Kitsak's candidacy for Molodovan nationality did not receive the necessary number of votes. Mr. Kitsak was the deputy chief of the 40th army during military operations in Afghanistan. He also commanded the Trans-Dniester Guard during the period of armed conflict in the region.

Trans-Dniester Parliament also endorsed the appointments for the Construction and Architecture Ministries, Medical Insurance and State Committee for Economic Reforms.

Sangheli Views Recent Trip to Siberia, Far East

AU1509183592 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli by Valentina Ursu in Chisinau; date not given—recorded and relayed via Iasi]

[Text] [Ursu] As you said, the goal of your trip was to reestablish and consolidate economic relations with these regions. Have you achieved this goal? What are the results of your visit?

[Sangheli] Our visit in Surgut was aimed at deciding on the issue of fuel that we are receiving from this region, the supply for 1993, and finalizing the amounts of fuel supply for October and November needed for harvesting, as well as the supply of heating fuel for December. We had to finalize some figures and discuss the problem of transportation. The transport facilities owned by the Republic of Moldova are not sufficient

enough for our needs, so officials from the relevant ministries stayed behind to discuss this matter.

The other issue discussed was the investments made by the Republic of Moldova in this region, investments aimed at organizing a mixed company, or some other form of cooperation in harmony with the laws valid in this region. A group of experts from the Economics Relations Ministry, Agricultural Ministry, Trade Ministry, and a representative of the government will leave for the region and discuss the matters between 25-27 September. Another issue dealt with was our compatriots who are working in this region; there are huge projects here with more than 300 Moldovans working; we met them and we decided on some problems that affect them directly. The main problem is their citizenship, a really acute problem that must be solved immediately. People are interested—I would even say that they are somehow frightened—because, no matter how good they have it, they, nonetheless, want to come home; some want to come immediately and others want to come after three or four years. This problem has to be solved. There were also other problems. Those that could be solved by the local leadership have been solved, while some other problems that need to be solved will be discussed in the course of this week. The leadership of our Construction Ministry has stayed behind to deal with these issues.

From this region we left for Vladivostok because our republic uses 25,000-35,000 tonnes of iron annually, produced in the Vladivostok and Katalin regions. We held talks on our treaty with the Trade Ministry there on the amounts to be delivered to the Republic of Moldova. From Vladivostok, we left for Katalin from where we receive 10,000 tonnes of iron annually and we drew the conclusion that both regions can supply the amount needed by us, in exchange for the Moldovan products that they need. We had no serious problems here. From Vladivostok, we left for Ufa, Bashkiria. We have very strong relations with this republic and all the issues were prepared by the experts, and a contract will probably be ready for signing next week, and we will have possibilities of importing 50,000-65,000 tonnes of wheat. [indistinct passage]

[Ursu] As I understand it, a number of mutually advantageous treaties were signed during this trip. We, however, are interested in the disproportion in the mutual delivery of goods.

[Sangheli] This is a problem in all the contracts that have been signed; however, in every concrete case, we compromised in some places and we gained in others; every contract has two facets; we cannot gain something without compromising on something else.

[Ursu] We learned about your intention to visit various areas. What other areas do you intend to visit?

[Sangheli] I will be in Moldova this week; on 16 September we will hold a government meeting on some urgent issues, like the preparations for the supply of the republic for the winter of 1993; besides, issues can no longer be solved through telegrams, and we have to travel to places; ministers also travel a lot, and so do the deputy ministers. The IMF and the World Bank are working in our republic today, and we will have to prepare the balance by next week, and we are also preparing a contract with Germany for the supply of pharmaceutical products.

Sangheli Declares Support for Trade Union Program

OW1609111392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A joint session of the Moldovan Government and the Council of federation of the republic's independent trade unions is supposed to be held on Wednesday [16 September] in Chisinau to discuss and sign agreements on social guarantees.

On the eve of the session the Prime Minster Andrei Sangheli declared that he supports the programme of the Federation of the Moldovan Independent Trade Unions and his government will do everything necessary to assure social security of the population on the way to market economy in the republic.

The government also intends to adopt a general programme aimed at development of viticulture and winemaking in the republic as this branch must enjoy priority in the economy of Moldova.

Druc Nominates Himself for Romanian Presidency

LD1509092992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Mircea Druc, ex-premier of Moldova, who has nominated himself for the post of president of Romania, has stated that the Romanian national army should become a guarantee of Romania's annexation of Moldova.

Speaking on Romanian television, he compared it to the annexation of 1918 which, according to him, was carried out by the army. He also appealed to all his fellow countrymen to think and act as though Moldova were already part of Romania.

Returning to the events of 1990, Mircea Druc said that he has agreed to become prime minister of Moldova to speed up the integration process.

Kazakhstan

Data on Uranium Reserves, Deposits Declassified

MK1609093192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 92 p 3

[NEGA column report: "Kazakhstan"]

[Text] The Government of Kazakhstan has decided to declassify information on reserves and the geological-economic characteristics of the republic's uranium deposits.

It has also been decided to release for press publication and submission to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], the London Uranium Institute, and other international organizations information on total uranium reserves and resources. This action will enable Kazakhstan to meet the condition governing admission to IAEA membership and to obtain a uranium sales quota.

Nazarbayev Holds Meeting with Shaposhnikov

LD1509185192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] There was a working meeting today between Nursultan Nazarbayev and Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Combined CIS Armed Forces, who has arrived in Alma-Ata.

The commander in chief informed the president about issues being put forward by the leadership of the Combined Armed Forces to the forthcoming meeting of CIS heads of state in Bishkek. These received the president's full understanding and approval.

Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed Kazakhstan's adherence to a unified system of CIS collective security. He said that the republic will rigorously fulfill the treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance between Russia and Kazakhstan, which was concluded on 25 May.

Kazakhstan Defense Minister Colonel General Sagadat Nurmagambetov was

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia

OW1509193192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [15 September] Russian Minister of Economy Andrey Nechayev and Kazakh Minister of Economy Tileukhan Kabdirakhmanov initialed an international agreement on economic collaboration between the two countries in 1993. It is expected that next year the physical volume of mutual trade between Russia and Kazakhstan will be cut by approximately 15-20%, which is proportional to the decline in industrial production.

On the conclusion of the negotiations Nechayev stated in an interview with INTERFAX that he was satisfied with the results. He remarked that there was "no final clarity" about the mechanics of realizing the trade agreement. He said that Russia was in favor of direct domestic links at the level of enterprises and has offered to control on a state level at least the trade of "strategic goods" - oil, non-ferrous metals, grain, and timber—at world market prices. Nechayev said that for now Kazakhstan stands for quotas on exports at domestic prices. The last condition may not satisfy Russia, since prices on non-ferrous metals from Kazakhstan have already practically reached world market prices, but prices on timber from Russia are still far from world prices.

In answer to a question on the possible volume of purchases of Kazakh grain, Nachayev said that Russia "is counting" on the import of 7 mn [million] tonnes at world prices, but Kazakhstan is "still not prepared" to give a final answer to this question.

Supreme Soviet Announces Placename Changes

LD1609104192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0810 GMT 16 Sep 92

["Born again names"—KAZTAG headline]

[Summary] The Supreme Soviet Presidium has adopted a resolution on renaming certain places with the aim of reviving ancient place names.

East Kazakhstan Oblast

Dirizhabl becomes Kyzylsu;

Kirovo becomes Zhanalyk;

Andreyevka becomes Zhanatileu;

Komsomol becomes Zhetyaral;

Priozernyy becomes Tugyl;

Pokrovka becomes Manyrak;

Sergeyevka becomes Kaynar;

Budennovka becomes Toskayyn;

Vysokogorka becomes Karabulak;

Maralikha becomes Maraldy;

Pugachevo becomes Ushbulak;

Platovo becomes Sarytau;

Zelenoye becomes Algabas;

Kalinino becomes Yegindybulak;

Tochka becomes Bayash Utepova;

Skalistoye becomes Izgutty Aytykova;

Kustanay Oblast Aktobe becomes Maylin;

Mangistau Oblast Kuybyshevo becomes (?Zhyngyldy);

Semipalatinsk Oblast Yernazar becomes Zhantikey;

Igorevka becomes Sulusary;

Saratovka becomes Koytas;

Filippovka becomes Shymyldyk;

Ilyinka becomes Birlikshil;

Taldy Kurgan Oblast

Andreyevka becomes Kabanbay;

Saratovka becomes Kyzylkayyn;

Glinovka becomes Ushbulak;

Tridtsat Let Kazakhskoy Soviet Socialist Republic becomes Nadirizbek;

Akmola Oblast

Budennoye becomes Khadzhimukana;

South Kazakhstan Oblast

Galkino becomes Zertas.

Nazarbayev Pledges To Observe Ties With Belarus

OW1609142592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the course of negotiations held in Alma-Ata on Wednesday [16 September]the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich reconfirmed the intention of the two countries to pursue a coordinated policy in the sphere of taxing and monetary circulation to assure creation of the most favored economic regime. They stressed their determination to stay in the ruble zone and to observe economic interests of each other in case regional currencies are introduced.

Nazarbayaev Addresses Industrialists Congress

LD1509135292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The first congress of industrialists and entrepreneurs of this republic has opened in Alma-Ata.

[Correspondent I. Dvorkin] There is a long list of economic woes as the congress assembles. Since the beginning of the year, 80,000 people have been made unemployed. Over 300 factories are partially or completely at a standstill. Output is down but profit is up, because of rocketing prices. There is nothing to buy.

The thrombosis of failure to pay bills is a lethal threat to all industry. The laws and presidential decrees are issued but ignored. People are becoming catastrophically impoverished. What's needed is an organized force that is capable of carrying out the reforms. President Nursultan Nazarbayev reckons that a Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs could be just it. [Passage omitted]

The Union has been set up, and in addition to drawing up proposals for the government's reform program, the congress decided that it is essential, and I quote, to remove the structures of power and managers that are hindering and distorting the market reforms.

Government Supports Unified Ruble Zone

OW1509193292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting of CIS heads of state Kazakhstan will advocate the creation of "national structures similar to those in European communities" within the framework of the CIS, Kazakh Economics Minister Tileukhan Kabdirakhmanov told INTERFAX in an interview. If the Commonwealth was created then there should be institutions which would coordinate its policy, prepare proposals for the heads of member state and control the execution of resolutions passed into effect, the Minister said. In his opinion these institutions would not interfere with anyone's sovereignty but would be given functions delegated by all interested parties on the basis of consensus.

Mr. Kabdirakhmanov affirmed Kazakhstan's intention to remain within the ruble zone. However, he spoke against the total control of the Russian Central Bank over money emission within the unified ruble zone. Kazakhstan advocates the creation of a banking union with a single emission center where all questions would be decided through agreement.

News Conference Held on National Security Law

LD1209192992 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] A news conference on the law on national security organs has been held at the North Kazakhstan Oblast directorate of the Committee for National Security. The purpose of this meeting was to help publicize and explain this law, whose main provisions are intended to protect the rights and freedoms of the individual, first and foremost, in the interests of society and the state.

Founding Conference Establishes Broadcasting Union

LD1609123492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata September 16 TASS—The Broadcasting Union of Kazakhstan, established by its founding conference here today, aims to pool efforts of tens of independent television and radio broadcasting companies in the republic in order to solve problems of disseminating information and opinion where the state no longer holds the monopoly on all broadcasting.

The new union will ensure the coordination of activity in operating the technical base of broadcasting, the distribution of frequencies and wave-lengths.

The first congress of the union will be held in the republic in a few days, using telecommunication channels for the purpose.

Turkish Firm Helps Construct Processing Plants

PM1609153992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by A. Laptev]

[Text] [Laptev] This is probably the first time that the unimpressive town of Zaysan has received such an important foreign delegation. The tripartite contract concluded between the famous Turkish firm "Fentraka" [as heard], the Ust-Kamenogorsk Lead and Zinc Combine, and three of the oblast's southern rayons to build complexes to process agricultural produce and to manufacture construction materials seems to be coming to fruition. Argun Ozpay, Turkish ambassador to Kazakhstan—who attended the opening of the first building to be handed over by the Turkish construction workers (the comfortable "Fentraka" offices)—made no secret of his satisfaction. The businessmen are happy too. Everything's going to plan. In three months' time a large dairy plant will start turning out profits. Equipment installation there is currently in full swing. Meat and leather plants will be starting up in the not-too-distant future. The underused potential of these backward, forgotten regions will begin to be exploited. The environmentally friendly products—the firm guarantees their quality—could quite easily be sold on the world market once the local market demand is met, experts believe. Although that's looking some way ahead.

Kyrgyzstan

U.S.-Israeli Group Arrives for Water Research

LD1209181192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By KYRGYZTAG-TASS correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek September 11 TASS—A U.S.-Israeli delegation went straight to work at the Agriculture Ministry after arriving in Kyrgyzstan on Friday [11 September]. Experts will show local specialists methods of rational water use and ways to process, store and deliver agricultural products to consumers. Special attention will be paid to modernizing the water in the area and training programmes. Both Israel and the United States plan to provide credits to Kyrgyzstan in the area and finance the most promising projects.

UN To Give Aid in Management, Education

OW1509114792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [14 September] in Bishkek the head of the Kyrgyz State Committee for Investments Ednand Karabayev and the administrator of a UN Development Program William Draper signed a cooperation agreement under which Kyrgyzstan will be helped manage a market economy, work with foreign companies, investments and train personnel.

A management and banking training center is to be opened in Bishkek in affiliation with the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Tajikistan

Acting President Meets With Iranian Official

LD1509215792 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Uzbek 1400 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, has had talks with 'Abbos Malek, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the talks cooperation between the two countries and aid rendered to the Republic of Tajikistan and its people during the current difficult situation was discussed. Questions concerning preparations for the visit of Akbarsho Iskandarov to the Islamic Republic of Iran were also examined. The head of the parliament of Tajikistan was invited to pay a friendly visit, which will take place within the first 10 days of October. During the visit, Akbarsho Iskandarov will hold talks with the leaders of Iran and acquaint himself with the work of the Iranian parliament.

Cease-Fire Holding; Situation Remains Tense

LD1609110792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Dushanbe September 16 TASS—Cannonade has not been heard from the Kurgan-Tyube region for more than two days. The warring groups have been strictly fulfilling so far the cease-fire agreement, reached on September 15 as a result of preliminary talks, Shakhob

Sharipov, head of the Tajik National Security Committee, said today in the morning, commenting on the situation in the conflict zone. He added that short exchanges of fire were registered in the suburbs of the administrative center of the region and nearby villages. In his opinion, the fire came from individual armed groups, which do not obey anybody's orders.

Members of the Tajik Parliament, public figures and heads of non-governmental armed groups are continuing their consultations here.

Official talks, scheduled for Tuesday [16 September], were not held, because Chairman of the Republican Parliament Akbarsho Iskandarov could not come here for objective reasons. According to sources close to parliament, Iskandarov flies to Kurgan-Tyube today.

Life seems to be going on as usual in the Tajik capital. The World Congress of Tajiks ended here on Tuesday night.

Fortunately, the internecine war has not reached Dushanbe. However, local residents are also facing a lot of problems. Public transport is not functioning properly because of fuel shortages. Food is delivered to the city with interruptions. Despite repeated assurances of the municipal authorities that there will be enough bread for all, people begin to queue for bread early before baker's shops open. It is now about the only foodstuff available for numerous families with many children.

9 Die in Attack on Internal Affairs Ministry

OW1509161992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 9 police officers were killed and 8 wounded in an attack by unknown groups on the Internal Affairs Ministry post at the Shar-Shar crossing in the Kulyab region in southern Tajikistan. As INTERFAX was told at the regional Internal Affairs Department, the attack was well planned. Approximately 100 armed individuals approached the post, where 20 police officers were located, in several trucks and attempted to seize weapons.

After the clash, the criminals moved on to the nearby village of Sebiston [name as received], where they set fire to several houses. So far the Kulyab regional Internal Affairs Department has no information about victims among the peaceful inhabitants.

Police officers believe the act was an attempt to destabilize the already strained situation and to undermine the peaceful stabilization in neighboring Kurgan-Tyube region, which was the site of clashes between armed groups of opposing political orientation.

Leaders Demand Investigation

LD1509150592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 15 Sep (TASS)— The leadership of Kulyab oblast has declared that last night's attack on the Shar-Shar pass in Dangarinskiy rayon, controlled by Kulyab militia and local irregulars, was perpetrated by the armed forces of the opposition. It has demanded that the Tajik authorities conduct a thorough investigation of the tragedy, and appealed to the CIS countries and the world community to stop any further widening of the conflict and to send an independent commission to the region in order to assess the present situation in Kulyab oblast.

A statement for the media issued today by the Kulyab Executive Committee says that nine people were killed and ten were taken hostage as a result of the armed clash in Kulyab oblast.

The official reaction of the authorities and the political opposition of Tajikistan to the tragic events in Dangarinskiy rayon is not known yet.

Attacks on Militia Posts Reported

LD1609110992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] For the third day running it has been quiet in Kurgan-Tyube oblast, Tajikistan, ITAR-TASS reports. The warring sides are observing the agreement on a ceasefire reached on 15 September. However, attacks on militia posts have taken place in Kulyab oblast. As a result, nine servicemen were killed and five people were taken hostage. Official talks are to take place today between Supreme Soviet deputies and leaders of armed formations outside the government control.

Former Candidate Says Outside Help Possible

LD1509181392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Dushanbe September 15 TASS—Davlat Khudonazarov, a prominent public figure and the head of the filmmakers' union of Tajikistan, does not rule out the possibility of help from the outside to settle the situation in Tajikistan, primarily from Russia and other CIS countries.

During the presidential elections in November last year, Khudonazarov did not poll as many votes as Rakhman Nabiyev who won the majority of the vote among the electorate.

At present a commission set up by the republican parliament and government is making the first steps towards achieving peace in this republic which has been

the focus of the acutest political crisis, Khudonazarov told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday [16 September].

He said there has been no fighting in Tajikistan for the second day. Talks with the participation of the antagonistic sides and members of the parliamentary commission headed by parliament chief Akbar Iskandarov have been scheduled for Tuesday. The purpose of the commission is to secure a disengagement of the conflicting sides and compliance with ceasefire terms, he said.

Khudonazarov categorically disagrees with the view that Nabiyev's resignation put the republic on the verge of a government crisis. On the contrary, he pointed out, it was the president who led the Republic of Tajikistan into an absolutely disastrous situation.

Speaking about Tajikistan's future, Khudonazarov pointed out that the republic should first of all genuinely restore democracy based on legality and order.

He believes that the first specific step following a settlement of the situation in the republic should be elections under the supervision of U.N. observers and representatives from CIS and European countries. "Only upon going through normal, honest direct elections, we shall be able to finally get out of the crisis," he emphasised.

Deputy Premier Sees Chance for Stability

OW1509204792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Davlat Usmon, the deputy premier and deputy chairman of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, told IF [INTERFAX] in an exclusive interview that the political and economic crisis in the republic is deteriorating but the Tajik leadership "still has a chance to achieve stabilization." What is above all needed for this is, in Usmon's opinion, a compromise among all political parties and movements, and regional administrations.

Usmon is convinced that political leaders at all levels should give up pursuing local interests and pool their efforts to achieve peace in Tajikistan.

Usmon said he supported the idea of setting up a consultative council consisting of members of all political parties and public movements to work on the settlement of the armed conflict in Kurgan-Tyube Region. But what is more important, he believes, are effective measures on the part of the republic's leadership. There was a split in the parliament and government when Rakhman Nabiyev was in power. On the one hand, there were those who supported the President and the Communist bureaucracy, on the other, those who advocated democratic reforms in society.

Usmon thinks that with Nabiyev's resignation it will now be easier to overcome disagreements in all bodies of power. He said the commission formed at the initiative of the parliament presidium to monitor the ceasefire in Kurgan-Tyube Region, includes very influential people, which can make peaceful settlement easier.

There have already been some concrete positive results. Thus, there has been no fighting in the region for nearly two days now. The commission members, Usmon said, are authorized to conduct negotiations with leaders of conflicting groups. The people of Tajikistan are tired of bloodshed.

"I am sure the nation has enough wisdom and patience to surmount the present difficulties," Usmon concluded.

Dushanbe-Tashkent Flights Resume

LD1509190192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Following a break, flights by Tajikistan Airlines have resumed to the city of Tashkent, capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As you are aware, flights between Dushanbe and Tashkent were temporarily suspended in view of the unstable political situation in Tajikistan, according to Mahkamjonov, director general of Tajikistan Airlines. Of course, this news has been hailed by many travellers, visitors, and citizens in our capital.

The reopening of this air route is the result of recent inter-governmental negotiations in Tashkent. The Republic of Uzbekistan's airline, Uzbek Hava Yullari, is now ready to receive passenger aircraft from Tajikistan [words indistinct]. At present Yak-40 aircraft will fly instead of Tu-154 aircraft [passage indistinct].

Weapons Seizure Continues on Afghan Border

LD1609023592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Armed groups continue violating the Tajik-Afghan border in the section patrolled by Russian border troops. Three gunmen were detained on Monday [25 September] illegally crossing the border guarded by the Moscow border regiment, TASS learnt at the Russian border troops press centre. Fire was opened on the Russian border guards from the Afghan territory as they were detaining the gunmen. None of the Russian servicemen was hurt.

On September 13, six unidentified people made an attempt to break through to the Commonwealth from Afghanistan in the border area patrolled by Pyandzh border guards. Three tresspassers were detained with one of them wounded. The border guards confiscated four sub-machine guns, grenades and ammunition. Besides, two local residents were detained as they tried to help the tresspassers.

On Sunday, another group tried to illegally cross into Tajikistan from Afghanistan. Border guards spotted the criminals and pursued them. Local observers believe the border is being violated with the aim of smuggling weapons into Tajikistan, where a military conflict has been going on in the south which has claimed hundreds of human lives.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Decrees Change of Name of Newspaper

LD1309115892 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The Turkmen President has issued a decree changing the name of the newspaper YASH KOMMUNIST to VATAN [HOMELAND]. Annaberdi Nurgeldiyev has been appointed editor of VATAN.

Support for New Zealand Bid for Security Council

OW1109193792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1854 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan has pledged to support New Zealand in its bid for membership in the UN Security Council in 1993-1994. A spokesman for the Turkmenian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] informed INTERFAX that such a decision was made during a visit to Ashgabat by the New Zealand delegation headed by Ambassador Gerald MacGee and concomitant discussions of the forthcoming elections to the UN Security Council. The MFA spokesman noted that the Turkmenian representatives in the UN will be advised to that effect.

Turkmenistan's support of New Zealand, the MFA maintains, stems from the coincidence of interests and principles of foreign policy of the two states, such as their non-nuclear status, protection of the interests of minor states, etc.

Group Drafting Plan for Statistical System

OW1509144892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A commission has been formed in Turkmenistan to draft a program for the introduction of an international accounting and statistical system in the republic. The draft has to be submitted to the government before November 1.

The commission also has to estimate the financial cost of the program's implementation and the amount of material and manpower resources needed for it.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Views Regional Security Issues

LD1509205592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Events in Tajikistan are seriously worrying the leaders of neighboring republics. Uzbekistan's President Karimov held a news conference in Tashkent this evening.

[Correspondent Sh. Ganiyeva] The president of Uzbekistan gave a detailed analysis of recent events in the region and went on to speak about the necessity, in today's complicated situation, of renewing inter-state relations with Afghanistan. In his statement he proposed to the government of the adjacent state, in particular to its leader Mr. Rabbani, that a meeting should be held in the very near future at the negotiating table in Tashkent. Islam Karimov expressed the hope that this meeting would be attended by the heads of state of the Central Asian region and also by the leaders of neighboring eastern states.

In reply to our question about the current state of affairs on the border between the independent states of the CIS and Afghanistan, the president replied:

[Begin Karimov recording] An operation has been carried out to strengthen the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. This was done in fulfillment of the statement which was made by the four presidents, Mr. Yeltsin, Nazarbayev, Akayev, and Karimov. Today the situation on the border is quite alarming, but these crossings, these armed crossings as they are called—last time I said to you that in all reality these could be described as incursions—they have halted. The defenses have been sufficiently strengthened to rebuff all of those who used to cross the border so easily from here to there and from there to here, carrying weapons. [end recording]

[Ganiyeva] Let me add that in accordance with the message from President Karimov to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, which spoke of the need to take urgent measures to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan, a special UN commission arrives in Tashkent tomorrow.

Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman Visits 12 Sep

LD1209151992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, began his visit to Tashkent today, the NeGa news agency reports.

Quoting reliable sources, the agency goes on to say that Iskandarov will have a meeting with Islam Karimov,

president of Uzbekistan, to discuss governmental and economic ties between the two republics.

Iskandarov is temporarily acting as head of state in Tajikistan, following the resignation of President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

Procurator-General Notes Muslim Board Offenses

OW1509150692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Procurator-General's Office of Uzbekistan has revealed financial offences committed by the Muslim Board of Central Asia, located in Tashkent. Public prosecutor Buritosh Mustafayev said that not infrequently the donations received from the world Muslim organizations were mishandled or used for personal needs.

The Procurator-General's office has also revealed that some of the Muslim Board's staff members used the Muslims' donations to pay for the pilgrimage of their relatives, and sold the Koran and other religious books presented to the Muslim Board by the Arab states to be distributed for free, at black-market prices.

Armenia

President's Office Denies Adviser's Resignation

OW1509143292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All the rumours about the possible resignation of the Armenian president's national-security adviser Ashot Manachuryan are exaggerated, the Armenian president's press secretary Ruben Shugaryan informed IF [INTERFAX].

He said that Manachuryan's four-days' absence from the office was caused by "tiredness and indisposition, which was natural, given such strenuous work". Besides that, Manachuryan did not present any written application for resignation.

Karabakh Aide on Rome Talks, Azerbaijan Stance

MK1509092692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Liana Minasyan under the "Nagorno-Karabakh" rubric: "Patient More Dead Than Alive. CSCE Conference in Rome May Continue Ad Infinitum"]

[Text] "The existence and activity of the CSCE Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh is in jeopardy," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA was told by Boris Arushanyan, a vice premier of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and a member of the NKR delegation at the Minsk group's unofficial meeting in Rome. The Karabakh delegation has refused categorically to take part in official meetings of the group until such times as the delegation's status has been defined (the last conference in Rome was unofficial precisely because an accord on the status of this delegation was not reached at earlier meetings). Although the majority of participating countries are prepared to recognize the Karabakh officials as "elected representatives," Azerbaijan is continuing to insist on the formulation "representatives of the community," and sees itself and Armenia as the parties to the conflict.

"In Rome both we and Armenia have consented to a cease-fire," Arushunyan explained, but it has not been possible to obtain Elchibey's agreement—Azerbaijan is posing a preliminary condition: the liberation of Lachin and Shusha, that is, it will agree to a truce only when the situation has changed in its favor. That formulation of the question, the NKR vice premier maintains, proved unacceptable not only for Karabakh but also for the other conference participants.

The question of the arrival of observers in the region and of their mandate was discussed in Rome, but no decision was reached inasmuch as there had been no official session.

According to unofficial information, although the conference participants voiced official approval of the communique signed in Alma-Ata, the parallel process has generated jealous feelings in Rome. However, in Stepanakert itself people perceive this agreement as having nothing to do with the Karabakh conflict: Armenia and Azerbaijan have resolved their border problems. Armenia has indeed taken a parallel, "separate" path by agreeing to any peace initiatives insofar as Nazarbayev's proposal on reopening the roads is of vital importance for it. In Karabakh people believe that Azerbaijan can exploit the Alma-Ata document to its own advantage because it presents it with the opportunity, in the event of a cease-fire in the border area, to redeploy its troops and armaments to the Karabakh front and continue the fighting in Karabakh while asserting that it is a war against Armenia.

Azerbaijan Said Preparing for New Offensive

NC1509171992 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the Armenian rayons bordering Azerbaijan.

The latest reports from Nagorno-Karabakh indicate that the Azerbaijan National Army [ANA] is preparing for a wide-scale attack. The ANA is massing armed units and armored vehicles in Agdamskiy, Fizulinskiy, and Kubatlinskiy Rayons, which border the NKR. Azerbaijani units continue to fire on Armenian residential areas with various types of arms. [passage indistinct]

The Armenian self-defense forces have launched counterattacks to silence the firing positions, evict the enemy units from the residential areas they have occupied, and liberate [words indistinct].

The ANA units subjected [placename indistinct] to an intensive wave of rocket fire yesterday afternoon. More than 40 projectiles were fired on the town. Two people were seriously wounded and a house was destroyed.

Abdal and Gyulably, which are defended by the Armenians in Agdamskiy Rayon, were shelled by artillery units yesterday. An Armenian freedom fighter was wounded in the attack. Azerbaijan's saboteur groups continue to maintain their activities. Two peaceful residents were killed and four others were wounded yesterday by an explosive the saboteurs had placed in an area close to (Verkashan) in Martuninskiy Rayon.

The situation in the other parts of the NKR has been relatively peaceful, but this calm could be disrupted at any moment. We already have mentioned that Azerbaijan is massing a large number of armed groups and armored vehicles in areas close to the NKR. Nevertheless, Azerbaijan will not be able to achieve the result it expects. The people of Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] will maintain their struggle.

Exchanges of fire have taken place in various parts of the border area between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani units have fired frequently on Armenian residential areas with large-caliber artillery and rockets. According to the Armenian Ministry of Defense Press Center, Azerbaijani units fired on Bardzruni in [name indistinct] Rayon, Shefek in Sisian Rayon, and [placename indistinct] in Kapanskiy Rayon during the second half of the day on 13 September. [passage indistinct] The Armenian self-defense forces were forced to return fire in all cases to silence the enemy firing positions. Several residents in [placename indistinct] have been killed or wounded. We have not yet received accurate information on the casualties suffered by the Azerbaijani units. Nevertheless, according to the confirmed reports we have received, the enemy lost a tank and an infantry combat vehicle.

The Azerbaijani provocateurs fired on several border towns close to Zangezur at 1400 today. No one was hurt on the Armenian side.

All this indicates that Azerbaijan is violating the ceasefire agreement that was reached in Alma-Ata some time ago.

Yerevan Updates Karabakh, Border Situation

NC1509201892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] The KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY quotes self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that positional battles continued in Mardakertskiy Rayon throughout yesterday. A reconnaissance group of the Armenian self-defense forces unexpectedly infiltrated the Armenian-Greek village of Mekhmana, which is under Azerbaijani occupation. They substantially damaged Azerbaijani military equipment. Ten Azerbaijani soldiers were killed. Before the Azerbaijani garrison in the village could regroup, the reconnaissance group withdrew back to the battlefront.

Martuni was subjected to artillery and rocket shelling last night. Two residents were killed.

Two residents were killed and four others injured near Berdashen after it was hit by an Azerbaijani shell.

The massing of Azerbaijani troops and military equipment is continuing in Fizulinskiy Rayon, opposite the eastern border of Gadrutskiy Rayon, in Kubatlinskiy Rayon, and in the southern sector of Lachinskiy Rayon.

(?Though) the Goris-Lachin humanitarian corridor is being shelled periodically, it is under the firm control of the Karabakh self-defense detachments. Humanitarian freight and the wounded are transiting this road daily.

The Armenian Defense Ministry's press service informed us that there was relative calm in Armenia's border regions. Last night the defensive positions in Yeraskhavan were targeted by gunfire briefly. Our fighters returned fire and silenced the enemy. The situation was calm in this border sector today.

[Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian at 1706 GMT on 15 September, received with very poor reception, reported: "The Armenian Defense Ministry's press service informed ARMENPRES that a group from an Azerbaijani detachment tried to launch a surprise attack on the defensive position near the village of Brnakot in Sisianskiy Rayon early on the morning of 15 September. Faced with resistance from the Armenian fighters, they fled in confusion. Twenty-five Azerbaijanis were killed and nearly as many were wounded."]

Azerbaijan

Defense Minister Holds News Conference

NC1509154992 Baku TURAN in English 1326 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Baku 15 Sep (TURAN)—"We shall never exchange our land for peace", said the Defence Minister of Azerbaijan Rakhim Gaziyev today at the press-conference.

The minister outlined that political solution to the Karabakh conflict could be negotiated only if Armenia would withdraw all its troops from Azerbaijan.

R. Gaziyev said, there are the CIS's military men serving on the contract base in Azerbaijan, but they are only training the military personnel and operating within the Republic. "That is in accord with international standards", stressed the minister.

At the same time, the defence minister accused the Republic of Armenia of conducting the state terrorism policy, for the Republic is smuggling in military hirelings to Azerbaijan.

The press has been presented with seven Russian military men of the 779th Task Company of the CIS 7th Army, combating Azeris in Karabakh on the Armenian expeditionary corps' side.

Besides that, it was announced about 20 captured Armenian soldiers, dispatched from Armenian to Nagorno-Karabakh. [sentence as received] It was declared during the press-conference that all those soldiers would be regarded not as prisoners of war, but as terrorists and would be charged with terrorism.

Says Mercenaries Fighting for Armenia

OW1509165392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azeri Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev has stated that Azerbaijan "does not plan to give up land in exchange for peace." The Minister said at a press conference Tuesday [15 September] in Baku that the a stronger unified command and armed forces centralization is progressing in the republic. "Time is on our side," Gaziyev emphasized.

The Minister further stated that according to Azeri information, the Armenians lost three thousand people in fighting in Karabakh last summer. He did not, however, report Azeri losses.

Judging by documents carried by some of the deceased, Gaziyev said, "mercenaries from France and Syria are fighting in Karabakh" on the Armenian side.

Over the course of the summer, the Minister said, Armenians shot down three Azeri military planes and a helicopter. Addressing the fate of captured Azeri pilot Yuriy Verchenko, Gaziyev noted that the pilot worked in Azerbaijan as a contracted instructor, which, he said, does not violate "accepted procedures". Gaziyev pointed out that Azeri Air Force activities are not conducted outside the republic's borders.

Journalists were presented at the press conference with six servicemen of the 679th Company, specifically stationed in Armenia by the 7th Russian Army. They were captured in August during an attempt to detonate a bridge in the area of the village of Vaguas in the northern Caucausus.

The prisoners said they were paid 5,000 rubles for a day of fighting against Azerbaijan and 7,000 rubles as a bonus for destroying a piece of armored equipment.

Government Signs Caspian Sea Oil Project Accord

LD1209162592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Ye. Askerova for TASS]

[Text] Baku September 11 TASS—First Vice-Premier Vagid Akhmedov on Friday [11 September] signed an agreement formalising Azerbaijan's participation in the Caspian pipeline consortium that was concluded in Muscat, Oman, on June 17 by its two initial founders Kazakhstan and Oman. (Later they were joined by Russia).

After endorsement by the Azeri president, the official obligations of Azerbaijan with regard to participants in this transnational corporation will be confirmed.

The consortium was set up to build a pipeline to pump oil from the Caspian region to the world market and is likely to benefit Azerbaijan which currently spends a considerable share of its export revenues from crude oil and other oil products on transportation costs.

The consortium, registered on the Bermudas in July, is a limited company with each founder having an equal share. The Oman company, Ooc Ltd., which will provide funding for the project, will supervise and coordinate the project. Kazakhstan, Russia, and Azerbaijan will contribute in the form of labour, materials, equipment, rights of passage through their territories and other similar services.

President Replaces Petroleum Supply Chief

NC1209154392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey has issued a decree appointing Ali Mukhtar ogly Shabanov as chairman of the State Committee for the Supply of Petroleum Products. The decree removed Mukhtar Makhmud ogly Aslanov from the post because of serious deficiencies in his work.

President Elchibey's decree appointed Dashkan Firuz ogly Akhmedov as first deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Supply of Petroleum Products. [name indistinct] was relieved from this post because of serious deficiencies in his work.

Georgia

Abkhazian Commission Agrees to Cease-Fire

OW1509185792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that an agreement was reached at a session of the trilateral commission for control and inspection in Abkhazia Tuesday [15 September] for a total cease-fire on the shores of the Bzyb River beginning 00:00 hours September 16.

On Wednesday [16 September], a joint group will also begin reviewing statements by both sides on human rights violations in the conflict zone.

Shevardnadze Discusses Abkhazia With Yeltsin

OW1509185292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A telephone conversation took place Tuesday [15 September] between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze. Circles close to the State Council Chairman told INTERFAX that the Russian President expressed his concern over the strained situation in the Gagra region. The conversation affirmed a mutual resolve to completely fulfill all points of the document on Abkhazia which was signed September 3 in Moscow.

Situation 'Extremely Complex'

LD1509194692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1836 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS corrrespondent]

[Text] Tbilisi September 15 TASS—The situation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict at the line of confrontation near the city of Gagra is extremely complex, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's

Council of State, said at the council's meeting here on Tuesday [15 September] night.

Shevardnadze said he had a telephone talk today with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, informing him of the Abkhazian side's non-compliance with the terms of the Moscow agreement on a ceasefire.

The leadership of Georgia intends to consolidate the military command of government troops in Abkhazia and to send Avtandil Tskitishvili, chief of the Main Headquarters of the Georgian Defence Ministry, to the conflict zone, Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze on Elections, Abkhazia, Mingrelia

PM1509135692 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 11 Sep 92 p 18

[Interview with State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by Patrick Karam; place and date not given]

[Text] [Karam] The Tbilisi Government has lost control over part of Georgia's territory, including the province of Abkhazia. In these circumstances, do you not think that the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in Georgia in October are premature?

[Shevardnadze] These elections are essential for Georgia. They will make it possible to pacify the country in that the government which emerges from them will be fully legitimate. The elected government, with the support of public opinion, will have the means of fulfilling its mission of restoring peace.

Most of the national territory is calm. The elections will therefore take place normally there in the initial stage. As regards the other regions, the date will be postponed until circumstances become favorable. There are precedents for this in other countries. The main thing is that the elections should be held.

[Karam] Is it possible to regard these elections are truly free in that a major section of public opinion, namely the supporters of deposed President Zviad Ghamsakhurdia, will be excluded from them?

[Shevardnadze] In this connection, on 29 August I met with one of Gamsakhurdia's supporters, one of the main instigators of the seizure of the television station last June. He is now free because, as you know, we have declared a general amnesty and I personally asked him to come. Why? Quite simply because he is intelligent and loves Georgia. I am aware that Gamsakhurdia's supporters include many citizens who want to serve their people and who will stand in the elections. I have no intention of opposing that, instead I would like to encourage them to do so.

[Karam] What was the rationale behind the tough intervention by Georgian troops in Abkhazia?

[Shevardnadze] It is surprising that the decision to send our armed forces to Abkhazia produced such unfortunately tragic consequences for the population and engendered this situation of confrontation. It was, after all, just a movement by the Georgian army within Georgian territory.

I would like to remind you of the confusing situation which reigns in one whole section of western Georgia, in Mingrelia and Abkhazia. The activities of groups of well armed and organized gangsters have led to more than 11 billion rubles [R] of goods being stolen and property destroyed. The inhabitants complain of the insecurity which prevails in this region. The trains are ransacked and passengers held for ransom. Trucks vanish with their loads. The terrorists blow up railroad tracks, bridges, and administrative buildings. Just consider that in Abkhazia alone, theft totals more than R5 billion. Armenia, a large part of whose provisions pass through this region, is seriously affected. What can I say to its envoys who demand measures to halt this theft which is having an impact on its economy?

State representatives, like the deputy prime minister, are kidnapped and their kidnappers find refuge in Abkhazia, as do the terrorists who are destroying Mingrelia. We cannot accept that Georgia, cut off from its Black Sea ports, should be isolated from the rest of the world. No government from any state would accept that situation.

Our decision to send our troops was only motivated by the desire to combat insecurity and ensure freedom of movement on the railroads and roads.

[Karam] Could this simple police operation not have been carried out by the Abkhazian authorities?

[Shevardnadze] It is not for want of asking them to take responsibility on the territory they control. But all our efforts were in vain. The situation deteriorated until it took on unacceptable proportions, as witnessed by the kidnapping of a group of government representatives who had gone to negotiate the release of the deputy prime minister. It was no longer possible to believe in the Abkhazian authorities' sincerity and to rely on their good intentions. The council of state then decided to shoulder its responsibilities, aware that there was no other way of ensuring the territory's security. The previous day, I telephoned Ardzinba (president of the Abkhazian Parliament—LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS editor's note) to inform him of that. Far from opposing it, he accepted the principle of police operations carried out jointly with his own troops. You can understand that it was completely unexpected that the vanguard of 200 people sent would be fired on by the Abkhazian forces. I cannot determine Ardzinba's personal responsibility, and I would like to think he did not instigate that. The only certainty I have is that there was a provocation which can be blamed on the separatists. We will not allow them to take action.

[Karam] What is the state of your relations with Russia? Do you envisage joining the CIS?

[Shevardnadze] Our relations are good. We are preparing a series of agreements which will be signed in the very near future. The question of CIS membership must be distinguished from the nature of our relations with Russia. I am not in favor of membership in the immediate future. We do not know what will happen to this Commonwealth, the changes which will affect it are not predictable. Only the future will provide us with an answer.

Abkhaz, Georgian Parliamentary Factions Meet

MK1509142692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Tengiz Pachkoriya under the "Georgia" rubric: "Abkhaz Deputies Insist on Withdrawal of Georgian Troops. Georgian Faction Deputies Believe There Is Not Even Any Point Talking About It"]

[Text] A meeting of representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz factions in the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet has been held in the Abkhaz Council of Ministers building in Sukhumi with the mediation of Russian parliamentary deputies Gennadiy Benov and Valentina Linkova. The Russian and Abkhaz deputies arrived in Sukhumi from Gudauta in a CIS forces helicopter.

Opening the meeting, Gennadiy Benov stressed that the further course of events depends on the Abkhaz parliament. Advocating a political solution to the problem, Deputies Ozgan and Meskhiya stressed that the Moscow agreements should lie at the basis of the dialogue between the deputies. Konstantin Ozgan, spokesman for the Abkhaz faction, noted, however, that each of the sides is trying to exploit the provisions of the Moscow document in its own interests. Once again, he expounded the Abkhaz leadership's stance, which includes the basic condition of the withdrawal of Georgian State Council troops from Abkhazia, which must be fulfilled in order for the settlement of the conflict to be guaranteed. As Ozgan said, however, the Abkhaz side does not object if a contingent of Georgian Republic Armed Forces remains on the autonomous entity's territory for the protection of communications installations; the size of the contingent must be coordinated with the Abkhaz leadership.

"In this war there must be no victors or vanquished," Napoleon Meskhiya said in his answering address. He stressed that this is not a war between the Abkhaz and Georgian peoples but between politicians. According to representatives of the Georgian faction, the Georgian Government has every lawful reason to redeploy its own troops on its own territory in any area of the republic, including Abkhazia. Furthermore, according to Meskhiya, the Moscow document says nothing at all about the withdrawal of the Georgian State Council troops from Abkhazia, so there "is no point in even talking about it." At the same time, the Georgian deputies once again demanded that formations of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples be withdrawn from the territory of Abkhazia.

The main question discussed at the meeting was the renewal of the activity of the legitimate organs of power in Abkhazia—executive and legislative—which, incidentally, the Moscow meeting's final document stipulates.

Representatives of the Abkhaz deputation advocated the creation of joint Georgian-Abkhazian deputies' groups to go out to the hot spots to study the situation on the spot. The Georgian side agreed with its Abkhaz colleagues.

At the end of the meeting, which went on for five hours, a protocol was signed which contained a decision on the creation of mixed deputies' commissions to monitor and inspect compliance with the cease-fire, the disengagement of the troops, and their withdrawal from all the conflict zones. The document stipulates that assistance should be given in creating the right conditions for the legitimate organs of power to resume their work.

Observers in Abkhazia are not cherishing any great illusions concerning the latest conciliation document, which, in their opinion, like the others, is scarcely likely to be fulfilled. Nevertheless, similar meetings have been planned for the future, and one of them in particular may be held today.

Meanwhile, the Georgian "DemAbkhazia" parliamentary faction organized a sitting at the government recreation center near Sukhumi yesterday which the Georgian parliamentary opposition deputies decided to designate a session of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet despite the absence of the Abkhaz deputies. On the eve of the session the mass media were reporting that the "DemAbkhazia" deputies intend to abolish the Supreme Soviet of the autonomous republic. However, the item on the abolition of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet's powers was not included in the agenda, although the evasive way in which the question of the sociopolitical situation in Abkhazia, which was submitted for discussion, was formulated suggests that there is a possibility of this problem too being discussed.

The sitting that was called a session started yesterday morning and was held behind closed doors. Journalists were not even told the number of deputies present. At the news conference organized in the recess, Tamaz Nadareishvili, leader of the parliamentary opposition, merely noted that the deputies were represented "in sufficient numbers," although admittedly he did add that "for technical reasons" the deputies from Gagra had not arrived yet but that "we are expecting the helicopter that is bringing them any minute." He promised that no decisions would be made before the Gagra group arrived.

Nadareishvili also informed journalists that on 15 September the special control commission is resuming its

work in Sukhumi on the inspection and verification of the implementation of the Moscow meeting's final document.

The "DemAbkhazia" deputies' sitting, which the deputies have called a parliamentary session, will be continued tomorrow.

10-Day Withdrawal of Mountain Peoples Begins

LD1609094792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi, 16 Sep—The 10-day period which the Georgian side set the Abkhaz leadership for the withdrawal of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus from the conflict zone began today. A statement on this was made in Adler on 15 September by the Georgian delegation at a session of the trilateral commission to monitor and verify the terms of the Moscow agreement on Abkhazia between Boris Yeltsin, Eduard Shevardnadze, and Vladislav Ardzinba.

When the deadline expires, the military command retains the right to ensure the withdrawal of uncontrolled illegal armed detachments from Abkhazia, using all possible methods.

Over the past 24 hours, according to information from the Georgian Foreign Ministry's press center, six guardsmen have died and 27 have been injured in the conflict zone on the Georgian side.

Sukhumi Commandant: Situation 'Relatively Calm'

OW1609104992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The September 16 night was relatively calm over the whole territory of Abkhazia, the commandant of Sukhumi Giya Gulua told "IF" [INTERFAX] on Wednesday [16 September] morning. According to Gulua, after an agreement on cease-fire beginning at 00.00 on September 16 and on disengagement of forces in the region of the village of Kolkhida was reached on Tuesday in Adler, "for the first time over the last month the situation in the conflict zone was relatively calm and only separate shots were heard from time to time".

At the same time Gulua reported that disengagement of warring forces has not taken place yet. He expressed his doubt over the willingness of the Abkhazians to withdraw their forces as the Abkhazians together with hirelings of the Confederation of the Caucasian mountain peoples considerably prevail in number over the Georgian forces in the region of Kolkhida". The commandant reported that 6 Georgian servicemen died and 27 were wounded over the previous two days.

According to Gulua, the negotiations of the tripartite commission on control and inspection in Abkhazia held in Adler are supposed to continue on Wednesday.

Estonia

Group To Compile Data on Presidential Candidates

LD1509214392 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The election contest continues. The ETA agency reports that at the meeting today of electoral pacts and party representatives, held at the Internal Affairs Ministry on the initiative of the Secure Home electoral pact, a public commission of experts was set up to study and make public archive documents connected with all presidential candidates. Academician Endel Lippmaa, historian Rein Ruutsoo, and lawyer Kaljo Kagi, who are not standing for the Riigikogu [new parliament] were appointed to the commission. It will be clear later if two other two members, Hellar Grabbi and Evald Laasi, will take part. The commission is applying to the Internal Affairs Ministry for access to necessary archive documents, and it pledges to make any results public at a news conference on 17 September at the latest.

Endel Lippmaa emphasized the need to avoid the view that a check of this kind is something bad. Publication of information of the kind concerning Georg and Lennart Meri is something that should be done in any case because—according to Endel Lippmaa—the president, prime minister, and others at the top do not have a private life.

Tiit Made of the Estonian Entrepreneurs' Party did not consider it necessary to have such a commission set up and appealed to electoral pacts and parties not to go along with the advertising campaign of both the Fatherland and the Secure Home.

Supreme Council Approves Request for EBRD Loans

OW1509194592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1739 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [15 September], the Presidium of the Estonian Supreme Council allowed the government to request a $47 mn. [million] credit loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]. The loan would be spent on spare parts for electric power stations and heating systems, the repair of boiler systems, and the financing of energy conservation programmes.

Group Declares Readiness To Accept Command of Army

OW1509194792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1739 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decision to create a unified command for the national armed forces was taken at a meeting of the Estonian National Defence Initiative Centre in Haapsalu. The group which made the proposal declared its readiness to command the Estonian defence forces and the "Kaitseliit" [Defense League]. In its operations, the unified command centre would proceed from the "constitutional right to military opposition". A separate company would be created along with the centre.

The National Defence Initiative Centre was created in the spring of 1992 by a group of former members of the Kaitseliit under its former leader Kalle Eller. The centre has not been officially registered.

Kaitseliit's leader, Major Manevald Kasepold, told a BALTFAX correspondent that the Defence Initiative Centre was a "semi-underground" organisation with which Kaitseliit has no connection.

Latvia

Decree Passed on Negotiations With Russia

OW1509184992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1613 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [14 September], the Latvian parliament passed a decree on interstate negotiations with Russia concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops.

The document contains four main principles for future negotiations:

—the unconditional withdrawal of all troops in 1993

—the recognition of international treaties and internationally recognised common borders, including those established between Russia and Latvia by the treaty of 1920 which defines Latvia's current territory, including the Pytalovo region (currently part of Russia);

—recognition of the inability to naturalise new citizens before the withdrawal of occupying troops and the recognition of the right to resolve matters of citizenship of the republic only for its own citizens;

—the necessity for all Russian military detachments on Latvian territory to observe the schedule set by the Latvian leadership for the withdrawal of troops and restrictions on their activity on Latvian territory until withdrawal is complete.

Russian Warship Docks Without Permission

LD1509211392 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] A Russian navy warship has entered the Latvian seaport of Liepaja without a prior approval from the Latvian authorities. The warship, participating in a joint exercises with submarine, arrived at Liepaja last Friday [11 September], claiming an engine failure, according to the Latvian Defense Ministry [sentence as heard]. Latvian navy officials described the move as an outright violation of Latvian laws. This was not the first incident

of the type, the senior coastguard officer said, adding that Latvia was still unable to resist this type of intrusion.

Official Meets Russian Commander

OW1309141492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1348 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Riga on Friday [11 September] there was another meeting between Lt-General Petr Lediayev, deputy commander of the North-Western group of troops, and Juris Dobelis, deputy chairman of Latvia's parliamentary commission on defence affairs. The two men exchanged views on issues connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and from Riga in the current year. They also discussed problems connected with the meeting to be held on September 21 between Latvian officials and Russian army spokesmen.

Baltic States Disagree on Electricity Payments

LD1209215892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1825 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga September 12 TASS—Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis has described Friday's [11 September] meeting of prime ministers of Baltic states in Tallinn as difficult. He said it dealt with "unpleasant issues", notably in what currency and at what prices the three republics should pay for mutual deliveries. Lithuania still has the Russian rouble, Estonia introduced its own currency krone, and Latvia the Latvian rouble.

Godmanis told a news conference on Saturday that the thorniest issue was Estonian electricity, for which Latvia has to pay one billion roubles. Estonia demanded payment in German marks. Godmanis rejected this proposal. It was agreed that Latvia will pay in Russian roubles for electricity supplies that were made until September 15. Talks on this issue will continue. "We cannot pay ten million German marks to Estonia every month," he said.

Today Godmanis will leave for Taiwan to ask for credits needed for the construction of a new thermal power station that is likely to be fired by coal. Latvia hopes that it will lessen its dependence on Estonia and Russia, which supplies black oil and gas.

Godmanis on Rate Increases

LD1309203992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Before leaving for Taiwan, Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis reported at a news conference this morning on what was decided at yesterday's government session. In the middle of October, or at the end of it, electric power tariffs will be increased. They will be increased in connection with the fact that, as we have already said, hard currency will have to be paid in future to Estonia for electric power supply. It will cost Latvia 80 to 120 million German marks a year. Proceeding from this, electric power tariffs have been calculated.

Inhabitants will have to pay 3 rubles a kilowatt-hour, budget establishments—1.5 rubles a kilowatt-hour, and industrial enterprises—5.2 rubles a kilowatt-hour.

Departs For Taiwan

OW1309141792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1349 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Latvian delegation led by Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis went to Taiwan for an official visit. During the visit it will confer with Taiwan's president and prime minister, with the various cabinet ministers and with businessmen.

At the press conference given before his departure I. Godmanis said that the main goal of their visit is to conduct negotiations on the possibility of receiving a loan from Taiwan for the construction of a power plant in Latvia.

The U.S. Administration is willing to lend 150 million dollars; however it wants the other half of the required amount to be supplied by Latvia itself. It is believed that the construction of a power plant will cost 300 million dollars.

At the moment Latvia is in a position to meet only 50% of its electricity requirements, and therefore it depends on energy supplies from Russia and Estonia. Besides, it's not clear for how long Estonia will be able to deliver electricity to Latvia. Its own power plants are outdated; they need to be stopped and reconstructed. Therefore Latvia must begin to build a power plant as soon as possible.

In Taipei its delegates will discuss cooperation in other areas too. They intend to sign several agreements there.

Arrives, Schedule Noted

LD1509113192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1731 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Representatives of Taiwan's Foreign Ministry report that Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis has arrived in Taipei on a five-day visit. The delegation, consisting of 24 persons, is visiting Taiwan by invitation of President Li Teng-hui and Premier Hao Po-tsun. Businesslike talks are envisioned between Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans, Foreign Trade Minister Edgars Zausajevs, Transportation Minister Andris Gutmanis, and their counterparts from Taiwan. An agreement on guarantees for investment and an agreement on

cooperation in the sphere of aviation will be discussed. Officials will also give attention to the possibility of increasing a loan from Taiwan to set up an economic cooperation fund.

A seminar on trade and investment issues is scheduled to take place on Tuesday [15 September]. Taiwanese businessmen will be able to get more detailed information on the possibility of deals in Latvia.

IMF Credits for Latvia, Estonia Agreed

LD1509221692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 92

[from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Latvia and Estonia will this week, receive their first loans from the IMF. The credit to Latvia will be $81 billion, and to Estonia $41 billion [figures as heard]. Preparations for an agreement on financial help from the IMF to Lithuania are also nearing an end.

Official on Unemployment Expectations

LD1209182292 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The number of unemployed in Latvia is due to reach 100,000 by the end of October, according to a Welfare Ministry official. (?Sergejs Mozhejevicsr), head of the ministry's Labor Department has also warned against increasing crime rate. He referred to figures produced by other European countries in similar conditions where one percent increase of unemployment generates four percent increase in crime rate in the country. The majority of unemployed in Latvia today are industry workers and drivers.

Gorbunovs To Attend UN Session As Head of State

OW1609114092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1038 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, will attend the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly as Latvia's head of state, which, in accordance with a new law passed by the parliament yesterday, will be his capacity until the Seims (a new parliament) is elected.

In future the office of the head of state in Latvia will be held by a President elected by the Seims.

An earlier law required that the Supreme Council Chairman guide the parliament's work, explain various points in legislation, and represent Latvia at international meetings.

Confiscated Newspaper Resumes Publication

OW1609113892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1039 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Officers from Latvian law enforcement bodies have informed BF [BALTFAX] that the publication of the PILSONIS (Citizen) newspaper has been resumed. Its September 14 issue was confiscated for the anti-government materials it carried, a measure which the above-mentioned officers qualified as unwarranted.

Turkish Ambassador Presents Credentials

OW1409182592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1723 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [14 September] Turkish Ambassador to Latvia Erkan Gezer presented his credentials to Chairman of the Latvian parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

Gezer will serve as ambassador to the three Baltic states. His permanent residence will be in Vilnius.